ANNALS OF OXFORD



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THE BOY OF 1856



THE LAD OF 1906

ANNALS

OF

OXFORD, NEW YORK

WITH

ILLUSTRATIONS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SOME OF ITS PROMINENT MEN AND EARLY PIONEERS

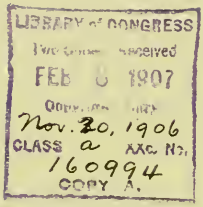
COMPILED, EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY

HENRY J. GALPIN

OXFORD, N.Y.
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Preface.

'Tis pleasant to see one's name in print;
A book's a book, although there's nothing in it.—Byron.

A man starts upon a sudden, takes Pen, Ink and Paper, and without ever having had a thought of it before, resolves within himself he will write a Book; he has no Talent at Writing, but he wants fifty guineas.
—De La Bruyere.

In collecting data for this volume it has been my leading aim as well as earnest desire to make it as accurate and useful as possible. For this purpose I have availed myself of the assistance of many of the descendants of the early pioneers of the town, to whom I hereby tender sincere thanks for the ready and effiicient assistance conferred, and acknowledge my obligations.

Read straight along. A very vicious habit in reading is to flip the flying pages till something succulent appears; and nab it, then wait until something else the eye engages. Like Mrs. Todgers when she boiled the chickens, as Bailey said, who'd seen her bend above 'em, "She's got a fork and dodgin' round and picking the tender pieces out and a-eating of 'em."
—W. A. Croffut.

The accurate character of the contents of the book has, of course, been my chief object. But, after all, although I hope and believe that the book is free from serious error, I am quite aware that faults both of manner and matter will be discovered.

It's a strange thing—sometimes when I'm quite alone, sitting in my room with my eyes closed, or walking o'er the hills, the people I've seen and known, if it's only been for a few days, are brought before me and I see them look and move almost plainer than I ever did when they were really with me so as I could touch them. And then my heart is drawn out towards them, and I feel their lot as if it was my own.—George Eliot.

I've had my say out, and I shall be th' easier for 't all my life. There's no pleasure i' living if you're to be corked up forever, and only dribble your mind out by the sly, like a leaky barrel.—George Eliot.

"Here's my hand,
And mine, with my heart in't. And now farewell."

HENRY J. GALPIN.

Far from the gay cities and the ways of men.—Pope.

State---County---Town.

The Province of New York was divided into twelve counties November 1, 1683, and Albany county was the first civil division to which Chenango county belonged. Montgomery county, then called Tryon, was formed from Albany March 12, 1772; Herkimer, Otsego and Tioga counties were formed from Montgomery February 16, 1791; and March 15, 1798, Chenango county was erected from Herkimer and Tioga counties.

Chenango county is named from the river which flows centrally through it. In "Morgan's League of the Iroquois," Chenango is called "O-che-wang." Another authority says the Indian name is "O-nan-no-gi-is-ka," meaning "beautiful river." But the true orthography for Chenango is "Tsenango," signifying "pleasant stream."

The territory embraced in Chenango county includes eleven of the "Chenango Twenty Towns," or "Governor's Purchase," the "Gore," lying between these and the "Military Tract," a part of the "Chenango Triangle Tract," and several smaller tracts or sections.

The "Chenango Twenty Towns" were ceded to the State by the Oneida Indians in a treaty made by Governor George Clinton at Fort Schuyler, (Utica), September 22, 1788. At the organization of the county it included all of the twenty towns, but on the organization of Madison county, two tiers of townships upon the north were included in that county. These townships were originally

numbered from one to twenty and were laid out six miles square. Those numbered from seven to seventeen are now in Chenango.

Owing to the sinuosities of the Unadilla river, several gores were left along its banks. Each township was divided into four equal parts, as nearly square as possible, and afterwards into lots of 250 acres each. On the map of every township one lot was designated "Gospel" and one "School," which were reserved for religious and educational purposes.

That part of the town of Oxford lying west of the river was called the "Gore." Melancthon Smith and Marinus Willett, the original purchasers, paid four shillings and one penny per acre for it, and divided it into sixty-nine lots, each lot containing one hundred acres. Guilford, that part of Oxford lying east of the river, and a small portion of Coventry, were included in "Fayette Township."

The township of Fayette, from the western portion of which Oxford was formed, derived its name from that of the noble Marquis de LaFayette, a name held in grateful and loving remembrance by every true American. This township extended from the Unadilla river to the Chenango, and from the south line of the "Twenty-Townships" to the present boundary of Coventry, having been one of the first tracts laid out and surveyed after the war of the Revolution. It was sold at public auction in New York in lots a mile square.

January 19, 1793, the township of Fayette and the "Gore" before mentioned, were incorporated into the town of Oxford, and formed from Union, Broome county, and Jericho, (Bainbridge). At this time the town was in the county of Tioga.

In 1813 the town of Eastern (Guilford), was set off as a town from Oxford, and a part of Coventry was taken off in 1843. In 1822 a small tract from the town of Greene was annexed to Oxford.

As it has been previously stated the town was formed in January 1793, but the citizens failed to hold a town meeting in April and the following record is the first appearing on the town book:

Whereas the town of Oxford for the want of seasonable information of their being incorporated into a Town separate from the Town of Jericho they did neglect to hold a legal annual Townmeeting on the first Tuesday in April one thousand seven hundred and ninety three as the Law of this State for holding Town meetings directs, in consequence of which agreeable to an act of this State passed the seventh day of March in the year 1788 Assembled at the house of Benjamin Hovey in said Oxford on the 17th June 1793 William Guthree, Hezekiah Stowel and Joab Enos all Justices of the peace in and for the County of Tioga and then and there on the same day by Warrants under their hands and Seals agreeable to the aforesaid Act did constitute and appoint the following persons to officiate in the offices affiix'd to their several names for the year ensuing. Viz—

Benjamin Hovey—Supervisor.

James Phelps, Ebenezer Enos, John Fitch — Assessors.

Zachariah Lummis—Collector.

Peter Burgot, Joshua Mersereau — Poormasters.

James Phelps, Asa Holmes, Nathanel Locke — Commiss's Highways.

Abel Gibson, James Mitchel — Constables.

And gave Warrants under their hands and Seals (after being duly sworn) which are lodg'd in the Town Clerks office all of which is according to the Directions of the aforesaid act.

Elihu Murray, Clerk.

Att the Same place and on the Same day and by the Same Justices the Rodes were divided into Districts as follows (Viz)

1st Destrict from the South line of Joshua Mersereaus Land up the Unadilla River to John Blandens North line.

Second Destrict from thence to the North line of the Town,

3d District from the aforesaid rode to Daniel Sills North line and from thence by Daniel Savages to the State road.

4th Destrict from Mersereaus Mills to Joseph Adams.
5th Destrict from Adams to William Gordons.

6th Destrict from Adams to the Chenango River on the State rode and from there thence to Joab Enoses.

7th Destrict from Enoses to Daniel Sills.

8th Destrict on the West Side of the Chenango River Beginning at the north bounds of the Town and Running thence Down Said River to John Holmes and out the State rode as far as the Town extends.

9th Destrict from John Holmes to the South bounds of the town.

The Pathmasters who at the Same time and place were appointed by the Same Justices and Warrants Lodged in the Town office are as follows (Viz)

1st Destrict Isaac Fuller
2 Do —— Able Gibson
3 Do —— Daniel Gregory
4 Do —— Joseph Adams
5 Do —— William Gordon
6 Destrict James McCalpin
7 Do —— Thomas Lyon
8 Do —— Solomon Dodge
9 Do —— Petters Barttles

A True Coppy

Elihu Murray Clerk

Gen. Robert Morris of the Revolutionary army, like many of the government officers, was obliged to take his pay in land. A section belonging to the government in Otsego county was set off to him, comprising the present town of Morris, which derives its name from him; but as this failed to satisfy his claim, another mile square owned by the government in Chenango county, was assigned to him. This and adjoining sections are in East Oxford and Guilford, but at that time were all in Oxford. The Morris section was divided into three lots in the south half and four in the north half. The first settlers, beginning from the east, were Joshua Harrington, Hezekiah and Henry Wheeler, and John Harrington. North half from the east, were Nehemiah Wheeler, Nicholas Smith, Henry Wheeler and Joshua Harrington. The two last did not settle on the lots, but merely "occupied" them for many years.

The section east of the Morris was purchased by Roger Williams, and besides himself the east half was settled by Ira Wade, Ebenezer Root, and Theodore Wade. The north half by —— Gross, Arnold Wade, and George Dexter. The section south of the Williams lot was called the

Gospel Hill lot and settled by Asa, Hezekiah and John Sherwood, Aaron and Joel Root, Timothy Guy, James Nickerson, and Richard VanDusen, and a little later by Hawley Brant, T. L. Day and Joel Coe.

The section lying south of the Williams, was purchased by a man named Estes, and by him was willed to the town of Guilford.

The section south of the Morris, was settled by Anson Booth and Lambert Ingersoll, south half by Robert Brooksbank, James Padgett, and James Walker a little farther west.

The section west, one mile square, was owned by men in Albany named Quackenboss. One lot of 100 acres was sold at an early date to Enoch Smith, who lived and died there. The rest of this section remained wild a long time.

The mile square next north of the Morris section, was bought by Gerrit H. VanWagenen for six pence an acre.

DR. CHARLES JOSLYN came here in 1805 from Butternuts, Otsego county, and after practicing a few years removed to Greene. Drs. — Harrison and Isaac F. Thomas were also physicians who located here early in the town's history, but nothing more in regard to them is known.

The expenses of the town for the year 1799 were:

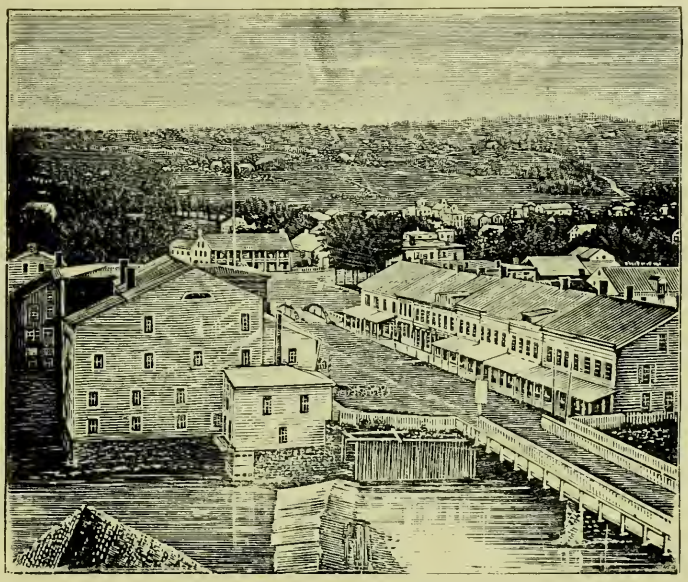
For defraying County charges -	$193.81
" Wolves - - -	30.00
" Collector's & Treasurer's fees . -	18.00
" Schooling - . -	89.43
Total	331.24

This fond attachment to the well-known place
Where first we started in life's long race,
Maintains its hold with such unfailing sway,
We feel it e'en in age, and at our latest day.
—COWPER.

The Village of Oxford.

The valley of the Chenango is one of the finest in the State and apparently formed by the action of large currents of water which have plowed deep furrows in the gently rolling region, which probably once formed the general face of the country.

The village of Oxford, incorporated April 6, 1806, is located in one of the most charmingly developed farming districts in Chenango county, and lies in a narrow valley closely hemmed in by green rounded hills whose contour clearly betrays the glacial action of past ages. Fields under careful cultivation and meadows on which graze large herds of cattle, with here and there a wood lot, make a picture soft in coloring and one rarely seen. The Chenango river winds like a silver thread through the meadows and divides the village in two parts, adding additional beauty to the scene. The residential part of the village is a park in itself. A greater part of the dwellers in this "Peaceful Valley" own their own residences, practically all of which are surrounded by plots of land of various sizes. The lawns are well cared for and many of them contain fine old trees, which together with the avenues of trees on the streets form almost a continuous canopy over one of the oldest settlements in the county. Three parks, like emeralds, add lustre to the surrounding buildings, many of which are colonial in design and arranged in charming simplicity, formal but not stiff.



NAVY ISLAND IN 1872



"ON THE OLD CHENANGO"

The advantage of pure and wholesome water for domestic purposes is of immense consequence, both for the convenience and health of a community. In this particular the village possesses decided advantages and perhaps is unrivalled in the State. On the eastern and western range of hills within a short distance of the village issue a great number of springs, which before the system of water works was inaugurated, were readily conveyed by logs or pipes to the dwellings. Several of these springs are large and they afforded the year around an abundance of soft water, free from any impurity.

Ah! you might wander far and wide,
Nor find a spot in the country's side
So fair to see as our valley's pride!
—PHOEBE CARY.

Elijah Blackman.

The year 1788 had donned the autumnal tints when, after many weary days from following a beckoning Fortune, Elijah Blackman was led over hill and dale into an uncultivated valley of giant trees. He was the first of his race to make a settlement in Oxford, then a new and unknown section of country, whose soil was now to be redeemed by hard and persistent labor, though not without many privations.

He had brought with him a stout heart and a good gun, and had journeyed long enough to enable him to learn much in regard to woodcraft, which knowledge coupled with a fine natural intelligence was to be of great service to him in the future. At length, after an extensive in-

vestigation, he fixed upon one particular spot as the place suitable for his future home. Nestling at the foot of the eastern hill was an island, later known as Packer or Cork island, whose borders were washed by the clear rippling waters of the Chenango.

Elijah Blackman, well pleased with the situation, proceeded to mark the land for his own, and ascending a tree took a hatchet from his belt with which he struck lusty blows that were heard to the green and golden hills on the further side, and the falling chips dropped to the ground as a symbol of the beginning of civilization, and the departure of the Indian, whose lands were now passing rapidly into the hands of the pale face. After marking several trees in the vicinity in a way that he could not fail to recognize them, he took his bearings and departed, the season being autumn and unfavorable for immediate settlement.

Early in the spring of 1789, Elijah Blackman and family, accompanied by James Phelps, whose mind had been inflamed by the description of the land spied out, were en route from Connecticut to the then far away "Chenango country" to make a home.

On account of sickness a portion of the family were detained at Unadilla, but Elijah and Jabez, Blackman's sons, accompanied by Polly Knapp, an adopted daughter, and then only a child of eleven years, were sent on. The journey from Unadilla was of two days' length, tedious and made on an ox sled. To the three as they approached the Chenango valley from the east, the silvery stream of the river flowing through the uncounted acres of the forest was a striking feature of the scene; and the ancient vestiges of the old fortification indicated a time when strife asserted itself in the peaceful domain they were entering.

Undaunted they set forth courageously to work in the forest of giant growth and having made a sufficient clearing the brothers erected a rude cabin of logs, covered it with pealed elm bark, and floored it with the halves of split logs. Greased paper answered the purposes of a window, and a suspended blanket answered for a door, until one could be made of hewed planks fastened together with wooden pins, and hung upon hinges of the same material. A chimney made of rough stones was added, laid up in mud from a nearby bed of clay.

For two weeks Polly Knapp was the first and only white female in town. She enlivened the rude cabin by her presence and aid. One day as Elijah and Jabez were at some distance from their clearing she saw thirty Indians come down the river in canoes. Concealing herself within the forest on the eastern shore, she followed and saw them stop to view the old fort and then quietly sail away.

The little island on which the Blackman family had squatted had previously been bought by Benjamin Hovey, who, when he came on later to take possession, gave them in consideration of the improvements made, a piece of land, a mile and a half up the river. On this Blackman resided till his death, which occurred about the year 1825.

James Phelps remained a few years and then returned to Connecticut.

Elijah Blackman, Jr., removed from the town in 1813. Jabez Blackman married Hannah Trisket, whose father was also an early settler. He lived on forty-two acres of the homestead farm given him by his father, until his death, which occurred January 17, 1849, at the age of 77 years. The original farm is now occupied by Mrs. William F. Nevins, who inherited it from her grandfather, Lawson Blackman, who was a grandson of Elijah Blackman, Sr.

Soon a small stream of new-comers began to filter, family by family, over the hills and up the Chenango, and in a few years the settlement of the town had become an accomplished fact. Toil, taxes, trouble, in short civilization.

Often at night wolves were howling around these primitive homes set great distances apart in the valley. The aborigines, who according to a learned writer, are "the posterity of our great-grandfather Japhet," found themselves obliged to tolerate a branch of their family giving good presumptive proof of being relatives in their willingness, even stern determination, to share the family inheritance. The pioneers were soon very widely known and respected as brave men and mighty hunters, whom it would be a positive pleasure to scalp.

Art thou a man? a patriot? look around;
Oh, thou shall find, howe'er thy footsteps roam,
That land thy country, and that spot thy home.
—J. MONTGOMERY.

Pioneer Life.

The life of the pioneer was beset with hardship and dangers. Many a young man emigrated from the eastern states to this town with only an axe, gun, a few shillings in money, but best of all, a stout heart. Some would come on with an ox cart accompanied by wife and children, the spare room in the cart piled with a few household goods. The first work after the erection of the house, was to clear the land, raise corn, potatoes and a little rye. Wheat bread was a luxury and seldom seen in the pioneer's cabin. But in the meantime while the first crops

were growing fish and wild game were the main sustenance. In the winter if the pioneer owned cattle they were fed on browse, that of basswood being the most luxuriant. Sometimes the store of provisions would run short, as was the case of a hardy settler one spring, who was forced to go down the river in a canoe for supplies, and when found had to work to pay for them, thus delaying his return to his family, who had been forced to dig up the potatoes they had planted to sustain life.

Deer were abundant and furnished the settler with meat, their skins were made into household garments, and the tallow furnished candles. When that gave out the "fat pine" was brought into requisition. Pitch pine and tapers in a dish of grease served for light until candles were invented.

The first matches appeared in 1832, before which fire was obtained by borrowing, or by flint and steel, and punk gathered from decayed trees. The best from the beech, although a poorer quality could be got from other trees, and every family kept a supply on hand.

The river and smaller streams abounded in fish, and with the abundant supply of game there was small chance of starvation while the husbandman was at home.

The lack of a mill was a great deprivation and varied were the devices for overcoming it. The more common way was to pound the corn for bread with a pestle and mortar, the latter being a cavity burned or scraped out of a hard wood stump, and the former a large stone or heavy iron suspended by a rope from a bent sapling. The process was slow and tedious, it being a day's work to convert a bushel of corn into meal. Sometimes the grain would be boiled and eaten with milk, or hulled, until they could go to mill, the distance of which was a great incon-

venience and a tedious journey. They had no wagons, nor had they any roads suitable for them. If distant from the river, they would place the grain upon a horse and take it to the bank of the stream, float it on a light boat twenty-five miles to Chenango Forks, where then was the only mill in a circuit of miles. Often the husbandman had to wait for others before he could get his flour, then returning home the journey would occupy three or four days. The children at home were often put upon so short an allowance as to cry for food. The trip at times was perilous, and around the log fire furnished detail of adventure, or narrow escape from flood or beast of prey.

Others went to Wattles Ferry at the outlet of Otsego lake, forty miles away, for their grinding, and their meal was often lengthened out by such makeshifts as hulled corn, stewed peas, beans and succotash.

Peter Burghardt, of whom mention is made elsewhere, was the first to erect a mill in this town, which was during the summer of 1792, on Hovey's creek, one and a half mile west from the village.

When a new settler arrived in town he was hailed with interest, especially if he had a yoke of oxen and a family of boys and girls. The neighbors were invited to help him erect a cabin, and at a stated time met in a logging bee, felled the trees and hauled the logs to the spot selected. In the "Chenango country" where the growth of timber was large a logging bee became a necessity. The heavy labor of cutting the timber was reduced to the minimum. The trees were cut half through, on one side, and when a long line of them had been prepared the great trees at the end were sent crashing down upon the first line and that upon the next, until the entire sweep lay in a mass on the ground. The additonal work of preparing for the bee was simply making the trunks of proper size for the cabin and

for the teams to handle them. Then came the day and the work. Twenty-five or thirty men, with as many yokes of oxen were often present on such an occasion. Shouting and hauling, tumbling and rolling of logs, and striking feats of skill and strength were marked features of the bee. Massive piles of timber were raised, great windrows, sometimes several hundred feet in length. Each man believed in himself and in his oxen, and the boasting, chinked in during the resting spells, had no littleness in its make-up. When the work was done the men regaled themselves with coffee, doughnuts, bread, cake, and not infrequently the drink was flavored with something stronger than coffee. Sallies of wit marked the occasion, and appetites kept pace with the wit.

In building the cabin two of the largest logs are placed in position with ends fitted to receive two more, and the foundation is laid. Another tier of logs is placed upon these similarly locked at the ends, a saddle upon one and a notch or skapp to put it in the other. This brings the logs near enough to each other so that a little chinking and a little "mudding up" once a year made all tight and warm. As the walls grew higher the work of rolling up the green logs grew more difficult. A boy was kept busy carrying drink to the men, water in one hand and whisky in the other, in little kegs; the former holding two gallons and the latter one. By sundown the body of the house, with timbers placed in position for the sleepers and beams, was completed. Next day a roof and gables of boards and slabs if they could be obtained were added; if not, elm bark dried in the sun made a convenient roof for shedding rain. The bottom course was placed on bars laid transversely with the rafters and other pieces of barks on these, the rough side up. The whole was kept in position by poles laid across. A floor for the cabin was made of rough

boards and a chimney made of rough stone laid up in mud. For door and windows a space was made by removing a section of the logs. Thus a house was built into which neither nail nor spike had been driven. The nails used in the first frame buildings were made at the nearest blacksmith shop.

As the little settlement increased in population so the log cabins increased in comfort. Though the walls and floors were bare, the windows small, and the house drafty and cold, with furniture uncomfortable and scanty; 'twas the great fireplace in the kitchen that glowed and made comfortable all its surroundings. The huge chimneys were built with ample open hearths and high up within ledges were made on either side to rest the ends of a long pole of green wood, called a lug-pole or back bar, from which hung a collection of pot hooks of various sizes and lengths to hold over the flames pots and kettles. The stone oven in the chimney, was as a rule heated once a week for the family baking. Extra baking was in the bake-kettle or in a spider before the fire. If company was to be entertained it was the inevitable "short cake" baked before the fire that was the pride of the housewife.

As civilization advanced the iron crane put the lug-pole out of commission, and the brick oven came into use, which was built in the chimney on one side of the fire place, and below an ash pit with swinging iron doors with a damper. When the oven was to be used a great fire of dry wood was kindled within it, and kept burning fiercely for several hours. Then the coals and ashes were removed, the chimney draft and damper were closed and pans of brown bread, pots of pork and beans, and numerous pies all went into the heated oven together. Stoves were then unknown, except the foot stove that was carried to church, a box of perforated metal in a wooden frame, within which was a small

iron box for hot coals to warm the feet during a winter's drive or to render endurable the long service in the arctic atmosphere of the unheated house of worship. The warming-pan was its companion as well as a necessary adjunct to housekeeping. It was a shallow pan of brass or iron about a foot in diameter and three or four inches deep, with a pierced cover, and had a long wooden handle. When used, it was filled with coals, and when thoroughly heated, was thrust between the sheets of the bed, and moved up and down to give warmth to every corner.

The housewife made linsey-woolsey blankets of linen and woolen mixed, also kersey cloth or blankets, ribbed and woven from wool of long staple. Several articles in use at that period, are now scarcely known, such as keelers, shallow tubs, for washing dishes; trammels, pendant hooks in a fireplace for holding kettles; porringers, small and shallow earthern dishes, having straight sides, and sometimes ears, from which children were fed; spits, pointed rods on which meat was fixed to be turned and roasted before a fire; rundlets, small barrels, holding a quart, or smaller; tankards, peculiar shaped drinking cups, sometimes, with a cover; trenchers, wooden plates for use at table. Squaws wandered from settlement to settlement bearing birch brooms on their backs, peddling them from cabin to cabin for ninepence apiece.

Previous to the laying, by Congress, of an embargo on all trade between the United States and the mother country and her Canadian colonies, in 1808, the full cloth, cassimere and broadcloth used by the settlers of this section of the State were English goods brought across from Canada, the wool from the settlers' flocks being given in exchange for cloth and going to England to be worked up. The embargo put a stop to this barter, and then for a time the settlers were obliged to depend upon the "sheepsgray"

product of the family loom, the wool of black and white sheep being mixed and carded by hand and worked into warp and woof on the spinning wheel. In cases where this crude fabric could not be obtained, the pioneers had to revert to the clammy buckskin breeches of Revolutionary days.

Besides the usual housework it then became indispensible for every woman to know how to spin and weave. Then nearly every family possessed one or more wheels, and occasionally one a loom. They spun wool, tow and flax, and wove it for clothing, for all wore clothing of tow and linen in summer, and flannel in the winter. Cotton goods were then high, and calico was a luxury denied to many of the pioneers. In nothing did the industry and independence of our forefathers appear to better advantage than in the substantial and comfortable fabrics with which they clothed their families and furnished their homes. It was the pride of every man who could manufacture his own cloth, to appear well dressed in the garb that American freemen should always wear, the plain homespun dress of sincerity and honest industry.

The manufacture of linen cloth from flax was a long and tedious duty, though conscientiously done by the early dwellers of our valley. Nearly every one raised flax, which when ripened was pulled and spread in rows by boys to dry. Then men threshed or rippled out all the seed to use for meal; afterwards the flax stalks were allowed to lie for some time in water until the shives were thoroughly rotten, when they were cleaned, dried and made into bundles. Then came the hard work of breaking the flax on the great flaxbreak, to remove the hard "hexe" or "bun," and to swingle it with a swingle knife. It was then hatchelled or combed by the mother, and in this manner the rough tow was gotten out, when it was made ready for the dis-

taff, round which it was finally wrapped. The thread was then spun on the "little wheel." The skeins of thread went through several processes of washing and bleaching before being ready for weaving. After weaving the cloth was "bucked" in a strong lye and washed out many times. Then it was "belted" with a maple beetle on a smooth, flat stone; then washed and spread out to bleach in the sun.

The making of wool into cloth was not so laborious as that of flax. After the cleaning of fleeces from burrs, feltings, tar-marks, and the dirt of months' accumulation, it was sorted out for dyeing. Layers of the various colors of wool after being dyed were rolled together and repeatedly carded on course wool-cards, then slightly greased by a disagreeable and tiresome method, then run into rolls. The wool was spun on the great wheel which stood in the kitchen with the reel and swift, and often by the glowing firelight the housewife spun the rolls of wool upon the spindle, turning the wheel with one hand, and with extended arm and light fingers holding the roll in the other, stepping backwards and forwards till it was spun into yarn.

Candle-dipping came late in the fall. Tallow which had been saved from the domestic animals killed furnished the material. A fierce fire was built in the fireplace, a large kettle half filled with water and melted tallow was hung over it. Candle-rods were brought forth and placed about eighteen inches apart, reaching from chair to chair, underneath were placed boards to catch the waste or drippings. Across these rods were laid shorter sticks, resembling the rungs of a ladder, to which the wicks were attached at intervals of a few inches. The wicks of cotton, or sometimes tow, were dipped time and time again into the melted tallow and left to harden between each dipping. When they were of the desired size, they were cut off, spread in a sunny place to bleach, and then put away until needed

for the long winter evenings. Later, molds came into use; although they made a more uniform candle, it took longer to manufacture and but few could be made in a day.

Soap making was an important piece of spring work. The refuse grease from the family cooking was saved through the winter, as were the woodashes from the kitchen fireplace. The almanac was carefully consulted to find when the moon would be in the right quarter to make the soap "come right." The leach barrel was filled with ashes through which water was passed, carrying away the soluble portions. The "first run" of lye not being strong enough was poured again upon the ashes, and if then strong enough to hold up an egg, it was also strong enough to use and the soap making progressed by boiling the grease and lye together in a large iron kettle over a huge bonfire in the backyard.

In early days saleratus was unknown, but what answered its purpose was prepared in every home. A few corn cobs were burned in the fireplace, the ashes gathered up, water applied and drained off. This process was in use many years. As clearings progressed the ashes from the fallow were gathered, leached and the lye boiled down into a mass called black salts. This was taken to Albany and other points and worked over into a strong black substance called pearlash, which served a very good purpose until about 1830, when by a second process saleratus was evolved.

The first plows were made of wood with a single bolt coming up through the landside and beam, with an iron key about the beam. Cast iron plows appeared about 1828-30.

THE FIRST CHILD born in the town was Ellis Loomis in May, 1792, who was adopted by Philip Bartle.

One of the few, the immortal names,
That was not born to die.—HALLECK.

Balcom Family.

The Balcom family was one of the first to appear in Oxford, as will be described later, and was also one of the early families in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Henry Balcom being on record in Charlestown, Mass., in 1665. The family has also a very early record in Sussex County, England, in and around the ancient town of Balcombe. Here, three generations by the name of Henry, immediately preceding Henry of Charlestown, are recorded; and the name is found of frequent record back through the 16th, 15th, and 14th centuries, the earliest record being of a John de Balcombe on an Assize Roll in 1309. The English family spell the name Balcombe, and it is thought that, inasmuch as the two last letters are silent, and because of the propensity of the Puritans to lop off all things superfluous, the name was changed to Balcom on arrival in the new world.

Alexander Balcom, the head of another branch of the family, is found on record at Providence, R. I., in 1665, which further indicates, that there was an understanding in regard to the change in spelling.

The name Balcombe is of the old Saxon speech and is derived from bal, a hill, and combe, a hollow or dell, the whole having a meaning similar to highlands in Scotch. The location of the village of Balcombe bears out this interpretation, as it is situated among the picturesque hills north of the celebrated South Downs of Sussex County.

It is some thirty miles south of London, and many with Puritan ideas emigrated from there in the middle of the 17th century

Henry Balcom of Charlestown, Mass., married Elizabeth Haynes at Sudbury, Mass., in 1666. His name appears frequently in records of public affairs at that place. He died in 1683, and his wife removed her family to her former home in Sudbury, in 1694, where she died in 1715.

Children of Henry and Elizabeth:

HANNAH, born March 16, 1668, died in infancy.

JOHN, born October 15, 1669, died August 28, 1743, unmarried. He was prominent in the affairs of Sudbury, as the records of that place attest. Tombstones of slate, with ancient designs of death's heads, still mark the resting place of John and his brother Joseph, in the old cemetery at Sudbury.

ELIZABETH, born Aug. 16, 1672, married Gershom Rice.

JOSEPH, born Dec. 17, 1674, died Sept. 17, 1745; married Tabitha Mosman in 1708. He with his brother John accumulated a homestead about one mile square, a portion of which has remained in the family name for over 200 years, the present occupant being Mr. Asa Balcom. Joseph Balcom died in 1745, his wife in 1770.

Children of Joseph and Tabitha:

JOSEPH, born Jan'y 13, 1713, died in 1744.

JOHN, born March 13, 1715, died in 1789.

ELIZABETH, born May 17, 1717, married James Mosman.

MARY, born Oct. 10, 1719, married Ephriam Maynard.

SIBELAH, born July 25, 1721, married Samuel Willis.

MICAH, born March 4, 1724, died in 1754.

Joseph Balcom, son of Joseph and Tabitha, married Deborah Boise in 1733. He had a portion of his father's homestead and on it erected a frame house. He "builded

better than he knew," for the house is still standing, a well preserved farm dwelling, good for many years to come, although nearing the close of its second century of usefulness. The exact date of Joseph Balcom's death is not known, as he died away from home in the year 1744. Tradition says he was in an expedition against the French and Indians and was taken prisoner.

Children of Joseph and Deborah:

SAMUEL, born June 16, 1734, removed to Nova Scotia in 1768.

JONAS, born Aug. 7, 1735, died Sept. 3, 1810.

SILAS, born March 1737, removed to Nova Scotia in 1768.

HENRY, born Aug. 16, 1740, died Oct. 28, 1812, in Oxford.

ISAAC, born in 1742, removed to Nova Scotia in 1768.

TABITHA, born in 1744, married Ebenezer Rice.

Henry Balcom, son of Joseph and Deborah, married Keziah Stowe April 29, 1761, and lived in Southboro, Mass., until about the time of the Boston tea party when he removed to New Fane, Vt. He fought at the battle of Bennington on an alarm call, and is shown by Vermont records, as serving short terms, at three different times subsequently, the longest being 123 days in a company of Rangers. He began service for his native State as a member of a Training Band, as shown on a list dated Southboro, Mass., April 29, 1757, being but sixteen years of age. Owing to the early death of his father, he as well as his brothers, were apprenticed at an early age, and by entering the service of the State he was able to free himself from such bonds. In the same year he appears on a muster roll for three months service at Pontoosuck, now Pittsfield, Mass., and in 1758 he is credited with eight months service in an expedition to Canada, and in 1759 with seven months' service in the Crown Point expedition, in which he is scheduled as a cor-

poral. When he removed to New Fane, he was a pioneer to that wilderness. There must be something in the theory of heredity in such matters, for even to the eighth generation the Balcoms have been ready to clear the way for others. Thence he came to Oxford in 1793, with his wife and daughters, Sally and Leafa, two years later than his sons, Francis and Samuel. Mrs. Balcom died Sept. 26, 1826, aged 89. They made their home during their latter years with their son, Samuel.

Children of Henry and Keziah:

Rhoda, born April 6, 1762, married Joshua Davis.

Frances, born May 18, 1764, married Darius Wheeler.

Joseph, born June 19, 1766, died in 1766.

Francis, born July 17, 1767, died Aug. 8, 1850, in Preston.

Leafa, born March 30, 1770, died Sept. 4, 1853, in Oxford, unmarried.

Samuel, born Dec. 31, 1772, died August 27, 1847.

Olive, born May 9, 1775, married J. Holland.

Sally, born May 21, 1780, married Samuel Farnham.

Francis Balcom, son of Henry and Keziah, came to Oxford in 1791. In 1797 he married Priscilla, daughter of Didymus Kinney, who with his family came from Dutchess county in 1794. Mr. Balcom left home when about 21 years of age and purchased land near Unadilla, N. Y., and while there became acquainted with General Benj. Hovey. After the Oxford Academy was opened in 1794, Francis Balcom attended for a while, although he was 27 years of age. He had the first choice of a farm at Oxford, the deed of which had to be recorded at Owego as Oxford was then in Tioga county. His son, Henry, subsequently owned the farm which later passed into the possession of Austin Hyde, W. A. Harrington and A. D. Harrington. Mr. Balcom was the last of the first settlers of this village, and

helped put up the first framed house in Oxford. Mrs. Balcom died Sept. 25, 1866, aged 90, at the home of her son, William.

Children of Francis and Priscilla:

Henry, born Jan. 18, 1798, died Jan. 26, 1878 in Oxford.

Joseph, born Oct. 18, 1799, died in Troy.

Samuel, born May 4, 1801, died in Pennsylvania.

Leafa, born Dec. 14, 1802, married Benj. Corry; died in Watertown, N. Y.

Hiram, born Dec. 2, 1804, died in Oxford.

Fanny, born March 11, 1807, married Zebedee Larned; died in Geneva, N. Y.

Keziah, born March 2, 1809, married Hubbard Randall; died in Marion, Iowa.

Charles A., born July 31, 1811, died in Bainbridge.

Polly, born Nov. 17, 1813, married Daniel Throop; died in Nineveh, N. Y.

Stephen, born April 2, 1816, died May 25, 1863, in Edgewood, Ill

William, born July 26, 1818, died Oct. 17, 1902, in Oxford.

Henry Balcom, better known as Harry, son of Francis and Priscilla, spent the eighty years of his lifetime in Oxford. He was a man of considerable enterprise, and in early life dealt largely in sheep and had many hundreds among the farmers about the country let out for a pound of wool per year. He once contracted with Joseph Allen for fifty two-horse lumber wagons, at $50 each, which was a large contract in those days, and many thought he would fail. It took two years to fill the contract, but it proved a success and in his trades added largely to the sheep business. He built the block of stores on the south side of La Fayette park. There was considerable delay in raising the frame after repeated times set for doing it, and he was

often sarcastically asked by the disappointed ones, "Harry, when are you going to raise?" Finally the event took place, and but few missed it, on account of the jollification that followed a raising. Whisky was only twenty cents a gallon and many remained around the frame until a late hour. Mr. Balcom was the builder of many dwellings and was identified with nearly every enterprise springing up in town. It was stated at the time of his death that he had constructed more houses and stores in Oxford than any two persons who had resided here. In 1838, with Demas Hubbard, Jr., and Justus Parce, he represented the county in the State Assembly. He was a staunch friend of Oxford Academy, and was for many years one of its trustees. In him the deserving poor found a counsellor and received aid. He was a friend to every one and his honesty was never doubted. At an early day he succeeded in accumulating a good fortune, but lost all by endorsing paper for others. With a will and determination possessed by but few, he by hard labor and years of perseverance paid every cent of the indebtedness and started life anew. He again succeeded in gaining a comfortable fortune which was a source of consolation to him in his declining years. Mr. Balcom married January 22, 1822, Mary Hunnewell, only child of Lyman and Dorcas Lynn Hunnewell, both of whom came to Oxford in its early days. She died in 1868. His second wife, whom he married late in life was Mrs. Sarah Kathan of Oxford, who died Sept. 4, 1897, aged 77.

Children of Henry and Mary:

Lucy Ann, born Nov. 1, 1822, died April 5, 1901, in Oxford.

Mary A., born Feb'y 1, 1826, married Cyrus Sheldon; died in California.

Sarah Lynn, born April 4, 1828, married (1) L. B Foote, (2) Samuel Balcom.

Jane Eliza, born Aug. 18, 1832, married Henry C. Putnam, of Eau Claire, Wis.

Henry Francis, born March 30, 1835, married June 4, 1860, Caroline Reeve of Portsmouth, Ohio.

John Frederick, born April 26, 1838, died in 1838.

Ellen Maria, born Dec. 1, 1841, died in 1842.

Samuel Farnham, born March 16, 1843, died suddenly April 19, 1906, in Eureka, Cal.

Joseph Balcom, son of Francis and Priscilla, married Lucretia Warren, of Smyrna, N. Y., in 1823, and settled in Greenfield, N. Y. Children: Hiram, Jane E., Maria L., Francis Henry.

Stephen Balcom, son of Francis and Priscilla, left home at an early age. The Pioneer spirit that took possession of his father and his grandfather, moved him to push out to the extreme West. He was living in Chicago in 1837 when he met S. W. Balcom, of Sudbury, Mass., who was making a visit to the West. Railroads were unknown at that time except at the seaboard, and the following item from his account of the trip west is of interest: "Cost of journey by stage from Sudbury, Mass., to Albany, N. Y., $11.00; from Albany to Buffalo, N. Y., by "line boat" (canal), $6.00; Buffalo to Detroit, Mich., by steamer, $5.00; Detroit to Niles, Mich., by stage, $9.00; Niles to St. Joseph, Mich., by stage, $2.50." On the night of arrival at St. Joseph a terrific storm destroyed or damaged half the shipping on the lake, and for two weeks no further progress could be made. Finding a band of Indians with a large boat some twenty feet long, and six feet wide in the middle, who were going up the lake for winter quarters, he with four other men hired the Indians to take them to Michigan City, Indiana. The five men boarded the canoe with their baggage. A young Indian to steer the boat and an Indian boy formed the crew; two Indian squaws, one

with a pappoose on her back, towed the boat. A breeze sprung up later, when sails about 10 feet by 6 feet were rigged and the boat put out a mile from the shore. In the afternoon a storm came up making the shore too rough for a landing, but about dark reached a large creek where they were able to beach the canoe. Here they were joined by the band of Indians who "burst into the greatest shout, and capered and danced and rejoiced greatly." They decided not to navigate Lake Michigan further in a birch bark canoe, but selected the beach of the lake and tramped to Michigan City. They found the stage overcrowded and booked so far in advance that they hired a team to take them to Chicago, where he arrived the second day, having spent twenty-four days on the journey at an expense of $64.00. Stephen Balcom remained in Northern Illinois several years after the meeting with S. W. Balcom, as mentioned. In 1842, his brother, William, met him in St. Louis and they took passage down the Mississippi river and engaged in the timber business between Vicksburg and New Orleans. William Balcom returned in a year or so to Oxford but Stephen Balcom continued in the timber business, located on the Yazoo river. He paid frequent visits to his old home in Oxford, and in 1854 married Margaret Healey of Nineveh, N. Y. Subsequent to this time the anti-slavery agitation of the North and East made associations unpleasant in the South for persons from other sections of the country. In 1858 he removed his family to Edgewood, Ill., where he engaged in the mercantile business until his death in 1863. His wife resided in Illinois until 1882, when she took up her residence in Denver, Col., with her son, William, where she died in 1903.

Children of Stephen and Margaret:

Stephen Francis, born Jan'y 24, 1856.

Thomas Maurice, born April 1, 1858, died June 19, 1863.

William Arthur, born July 6, 1860.

Margaret Hallam, born June 20, 1862.

William Balcom, son of Francis and Priscilla, married Selinda Lewis, of Norwich, in 1846, who died January 9, 1881. With the exception of a few years spent in the timber business with his brother, Stephen, in Mississippi, he devoted his business energies to mercantile pursuits in Oxford. His lifetime marked a most varied epoch in the growth not only of his locality but of our country at large. At its beginning the native Indian still crossed the beautiful Chenango, to dispose of his wares. The first school house was erected during his childhood, previous to which (1822) the young ideas were marshalled in a settler's dwelling. Mills and factories accompanied the canal, a wooden bridge spanned the river, and in due course of time was replaced by an iron structure. Steam supplanted water power, and mills as well as water traffic were dominated by it to such an extent that the canal, so glorious in its early years, had to be discarded. Public buildings, parks, a memorial fountain and other indications of art influence came in due time. Electricity made its appearance and the span is completed—from a pine torch to the brilliant electric lamp. His second wife was Miss Mary Ray, born in England, whom he married in 1882, in Oxford.

Children of William and Selinda:

Emma Louise, born March 14, 1847, married Geo. D. Hoyt; died March 18, 1873.

Caroline, born March 20, 1849, married Samuel Putnam, who died June, 18, 1892, at La Grande, Oregon.

Ellen Cornelia, born April 15, 1857, married Frank Wilcox.

William Gurdon, born March 10, 1861.

Ward VanDerLyn, born Oct. 27, 1863.

Frederick Newkirk, twin to above, died in 1864.

Henry Francis Balcom, son of Henry and Mary, married Caroline Reeve in 1860. His youth was spent in Oxford, but in early manhood removed to Cleveland, Ohio, where for a long term of years, he was connected with wholesale and manufacturing concerns. Of late years he has been associated with an only son, Henry Tracy Balcom, at Buffalo, N. Y., in handling musical instruments. In 1901 a reunion of the family was held at Buffalo, during the Pan-American Exposition, and evening sessions were held in their recital hall.

Henry Tracy Balcom, just mentioned, has a son of the same name who is an only child and is the sixth in line of descent in this country to bear the name of Henry—belonging at the same time to the ninth generation in America.

Samuel Farnham Balcom, son of Henry and Mary, married Margaret Gammon in 1874. They had no children. He spent his youth in Oxford, enlisted in the Civil war and served in the army with credit. He spent several years as proprietor of a grain elevator at Lamar, Missouri, and engaged later in sheep raising in the Blue mountains in Eastern Oregon; where, in the winter of 1884, an incident occurred that is one of many which shows the dangers and hardships the pioneers had to contend with: He had occasion to visit a railroad town some twenty-five miles away, and owing to an accident his horse was unable to make the return trip. Starting home on snow shoes, he headed for a hunter's cabin some twelve miles away. Having the misfortune about noon to break one of the snow shoes and being encumbered with a heavy bundle of mail and some necessary articles, he found his strength giving out as night overtook him. Stopping at a large tree to rest he fell asleep and was awakened by the howling of wolves. Having no firearms except a heavy revolver, he decided not to attack the wolves until absolutely necessary. Having

some two miles further to go he kept in open timber as much as possible, where the moonlight made things almost as bright as day. He stumbled on, the howling wolves getting bolder all the time. When within half a mile of the hunter's cabin the pack of hounds, some half dozen in number, hearing the wolves, came to the rescue. Ordinarily the dogs, with little better dispositon than a wolf, would have been almost as great a terror, but in this instance they were very welcome, and Mr. Balcom soon found himself enjoying cold venison and warm blankets. A few years subsequently, he moved to Eureka, Cal., making that his permanent residence, thus spanning the continent and one half the globe by completing the western journey begun by his forefather Henry in leaving England and continued by his ancestors, Henry and Francis.

Stephen Francis Balcom, son of Stephen and Margaret, is the first of his line of descent, of seven generations in America, to bear more than one given name. He has practiced civil engineering, being located at Indianapolis, Ind., of late years; and has incidentally given attention to genealogical research with the result that three divisions of the Balcom family in America have been traced. They number some six hundred families, and are scattered over the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Stephen Francis Balcom was married to Eliza Hall in 1880.

Children of Stephen Francis and Eliza:

Lucy, born July 9, 1881.

Ethelwyn, born Feb'y 27, 1883.

Mary, born Dec. 11, 1884, died Dec. 17, 1891.

Henry Clarke, born Feb'y 2, 1887.

William Arthur Balcom, son of Stephen and Margaret, has engaged in civil engineering work—mining surveying and engineering, irrigation ditch construction, and in rail-

road construction and maintenance, during the last twenty-five years in Colorado. He was married in 1888 to Edna Wildman who died in 1893. They had no children. The following account of a trip taken by him in the snow across the mountains in Colorado, is a fit companion to the one related of his cousin, Samuel Farnham Balcom, in Oregon. The trip was taken to ascertain for the Union Pacific Railway Co., the probable cost of opening a road for stage and freight teams over Alpine Pass, Cottonwood Pass and across Taylor's Range. The two passes were crossed on snow-shoes at an altitude of over 12,000 feet, without unusual incident, but the crossing of Taylor's Range, which was a much longer journey and with no ranches or camps on the line, was a much more difficult task. The first night after crossing Cottonwood Pass was spent at a deserted log cabin. He and the guide tore up some of the floor and made a fire which soon brought down the snow from the dilapidated roof in a shower, making their quarters too uncomfortable for much sleep. The second night was spent at another log cabin, but in this instance they took the precaution to make the fire outside the open door. They then found that the heat was so scant that they could stay away from the fire hardly long enough to get a short nap. After a breakfast on hardtack, and melted snow for water, they resumed the journey at 4 o'clock a. m., as usual. On approaching the summit of the range that day about noontime, they found a barrier in their way in the form of a comb of snow which overhung the crest of the ridge. There being no way to surmount it they walked along under the overhanging mass for a mile looking for a break; it being the last of April when the snow gives way at such places, forming a snow slide. They heard several such slides go thundering down the mountains, and were liable to be caught in one at any moment. They finally found a break, an opening some twenty-five feet wide,

and so steep that it was almost impossible to climb. By perseverance and cutting foot holds in the snow or crust, they reached the top. Coasting on the down grade, where in places they left a trail the width of their person, made up for lost time, and evening found them at their destination, half starved, worn out and with faces scorched, swollen and blistered by the hot sun's rays reflected from the snow.

William G. Balcom, son of William and Selinda, grew to manhood in Oxford. While in school he printed a minature school paper and continued its publication for quite a period, encouraged by his cousin, Miss Lucy A. Balcom, a well known writer in The Oxford Times and other periodicals of that day. The experience obtained in the mercantile business with his father, led him to continue in the same and he engaged later in that line at Eau Claire, Wis. He married Ida A. Dorwin at Eau Claire, in 1888.

Children of William Gurdon and Ida:

Callie, born February 24, 1889.

William Dorwin, born April 3, 1895.

Ward V. Balcom, son of William and Selinda, spent his early days in Oxford, where he attended school and acquired a liking for railroad work. He engaged in the same at various places in the Eastern states, as telegraph operator, agent, etc. In 1889 he married Stella A. Arnold of Fitchburg, Mass.

Children of Ward VanDerLyn and Stella:

Fred Arnold, born March 15, 1890.

Ward Irving, born Aug. 11, 1891, died Sep't 3, 1891.

Helen VanDerLyn, born Nov. 24, 1892.

Col. Samuel Balcom, son of Henry and Keziah, came to Oxford about the year 1791. He was associated with his brother Francis, in the construction of two bridges over the Susquehanna river, and in other jobs of carpenter

work. Early one summer's evening, Samuel was walking by the river bank and heard a soft, sweet voice singing:

"The day is past and gone
The evening shades appear;
Oh, may we all remember well
The night of death draws near."

He listened amazed, entranced, and for a moment thought the voice was not that of earth, and looked toward the sky, but in a turn in the river bank where ran wild pink and white flowers, that made the sunset air sweet from their breathing blossoms, he saw Polly Knapp. She was vainly trying to catch at a spray of blossoms that hung temptingly beyond her reach. He startled her by an offer of help.

"Can I do that for you?"

She turned round, her face bright with surprise.

"Thank you, sir. I do want that branch very much."

In a moment Samuel held the spray out to her, neatly trimmed by his hunting knife. She took it blushingly, and thanked him.

"Good evening," said he, passing on.

"Good bye," was the reply, as she looped the spray in her hair with skillful fingers.

Golden were the months that year. Samuel became very regular in his evening walks, and somehow they managed to meet at one particular spot where tall trees shaded the river bank and from which the distant hills could be seen in perfect beauty. Thus began the acquaintance of Samuel Balcom and Polly Knapp, the adopted daughter of Elijah Blackman, which terminated in their marriage in 1799. For upwards of thirty years they were consistent members of the Oxford Baptist church, and of which he was one of its founders. Mr. Balcom spent a greater part of his life as a farmer, lumberman and millwright. He also held several offices, and in 1840 represented Chenango

county in the Electoral college as a Harrison elector. Mrs. Balcom died October 7, 1852, aged 72 years.

Miss Lucy A. Balcom, of Oxford, was authority for the following interesting incident in the life of Mrs. Samuel Balcom: "One summer day Polly Knapp, Sally Balcom, Elizabeth Bartle and Betsey Loomis took possession of a canoe and went sailing on the beautiful Chenango, and it is related that they were not all together again until some forty years later when by chance as elderly matrons they met at the home of Miss Lucy Balcom's father and recounted their experiences on that early excursion."

In the course of years Samuel Balcom built a stone house on his farm, some two miles from Oxford, now the Willcox stone house farm, a portion of it being devoted to the use of his mother and sister Leafa.

Children of Samuel and Polly:

Lyman, born Nov. 29, 1800, died May 19, 1887.

Eliza, born Nov. 19, 1802, married Wm. Pearsall, of Apalachin, N. Y.

Luke, born Nov. 29, 1804, killed in 1842, by a falling tree in Erwin, N. Y.

Fayette, born July 12, 1807, married Calvin Cole.

Benjamin F., born Jan'y 10, 1810, died Dec. 20, 1879.

Harriet, born Feb'y 15, 1812, married Wm. Rhodes.

Uri T., born May 17, 1815, died Nov. 1, 1893.

Ransom R., born April 16, 1818, died Jan'y 6, 1879.

George F., born Feb'y 6, 1823, died Dec. 21, 1879.

Lyman Balcom, son of Samuel and Polly, married in 1820 Clarissa Hollenbeck of Greene, who died in 1881. At an early age he was put in charge of timber lands belonging to his father at Painted Post, Steuben county. Later on, in selecting a homestead he chose low lands between the two streams whose confluence forms the Chemung river,

and was one of the first of those in that section to adopt a plan of drainage that gave him soil with an inexhaustible store of fertility. He was Associate Judge of the County Court from 1840 to 1846, and also represented the second district of Steuben county in the Legislature in 1867. Later in life he devoted much time to agriculture and stock raising.

Children of Lyman and Clarissa:

Mary E., born June 4 1821, married L. Hamilton.
Samuel, born Dec. 13, 1822, died Sep't 23, 1890.
Margaret, born Feb'y 21, 1825, married J. Sailor.
Charles, born Jan. 31, 1827.
Susan F., born March 3, 1829, married R. O. Smith.
Jane C., born April 3, 1837, married W. S. Hodgman.

Benjamin F. Balcom, son of Samuel and Polly, married Eliza Ann Root in 1829. He was associated with his father in timber lands and the lumber business in Steuben county during the early years of his life. He made the town of Campbell, in that county, his home until 1857, when he removed to Corning. He became interested in church work and for years served as elder in the Baptist church, holding pastorates in Campbell, Corning, Bath and other towns. In 1879 Mr. Balcom and his wife celebrated their golden wedding. The occasion was given additional notice by the newspapers because of a journey through the snow made by their son Luke at a time when railroad trains were snow bound. Luke Balcom left home in Oconto, Wis., on the morning of January 2, 1879, and because of delays by snow did not leave Milwaukee until afternoon on the following day. Leaving there they had two, and at times four locomotives on the run to Chicago. He arrived at Niagara Falls on the night of January 4, and found that his train was the seventh to arrive since any had gone forward. Finding on the following day that no

attempt would be made to run trains, and realizing that if he was to be present at the golden wedding on the evening of January 8 he must start out and walk. He decided to undertake it, which he did that afternoon, reaching Lockport, nineteen miles, by night. He made twenty-five miles the next day, with no dinner, remaining over night at Albion. The next day, the 7th, he found the Erie canal towpath fairly good walking and reached Brockport at noon, and 5:30 p. m. found him in Rochester and at the home of his wife's mother, looking like a genuine tramp as she expressed it, having made thirty miles that day. He made ready for the final tramp on the 8th, but found that the first train after the blockade would start for Corning that morning, and boarding it reached home at noon on the eventful day. Before the close of the year Mr. Balcom again made the trip from Wisconsin, but under very different circumstances, having been called by the death of his father which occurred December 20, 1879.

Children of Benjamin F. and Eliza:

Benjamin, born May 14, 1830.
John, born April 17, 1832, died in 1832.
Caroline, born May 4, 1835, died in 1839.
James, born September 5, 1838.
Luke, born May 8, 1842.
Mark, born November 4, 1847.

Uri Balcom, son of Samuel and Polly, spent his youth in Oxford, and at an early age began rafting timber down the Susquehanna river. In 1841 he married Jane Elizabeth Besley, at Campbelltown, N.Y., and in 1891 they celebrated their golden wedding while spending the summer at Pittsfield, Mass. He began the lumber business at Oconto, Wis., in 1856. During the Civil war he raised a company of soldiers and his services were so meritorious that he held the rank of colonel at its close. He continued the

lumber business in Oconto up to within a few years of his death, although he made his headquarters in Chicago subsequently to 1868. He died November 1, 1893. They had no children, but adopted a niece who became the wife of W. C. D. Grannis of Chicago.

Ransom Balcom, son of Samuel and Polly, spent the first thirty-five years of his life in Oxford. He attended public school and the Academy, studied law with Judge McKoon and always took great pleasure in referring to his legal studies under "Count" VanDerLyn. He was admitted to the Bar in the Common Pleas and Superior Court about 1841. He was elected to represent Chenango county in the Assembly in 1846. In 1853 he removed to Binghamton where he was elected a Justice of the Supreme Court in 1855. He was twice re-elected, serving in that office about twenty-one years. Failing health prevented his completing the last term, and his death occurred January 6, 1879. His native village, towards which he always turned with tender recollections, received back with pride the mortal remains which he by his expressed wish consigned to its guardianship.

In 1884 Judge Balcom married Susan Farnham, of Oxford, who, after the death of her husband, held a position in the Treasury Department at Washington, D. C., until her death on January 4, 1900. She was the daughter of George Farnham; her mother dying in her infancy she was brought up by her grandmother, Mrs. Samuel Farnham.

Children of Ransom and Susan:

Lilla E., born September 2, 1847.
Fred N., born October 26, 1851.

George Balcom, son of Samuel and Polly, grew to manhood in Oxford, married Florinda Keech of Preston, in

1842, at which place he made his home for a number of years. At thirty years of age he was converted and entered the Baptist ministry. He was gifted with a fine voice which he used to great advantage in the way of speaking and singing at evangelistic meetings. The greater portion of his life was spent in special work of this nature and in organizing churches throughout New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and many of the western states. In 1870 he purchased a farm at Kawker City, Kan., where a portion of his family continued to reside after his death in 1879.

Children of George and Florinda:

WARD, born May 29, 1846.
CLARK, born December 15, 1847.
FLORA, born September 27, 1849.
ELLIE, born May 27, 1861, died in 1861.
CORA, born March 6, 1863.
GEORGE E., born July 3, 1866.

Family record of Samuel Balcom (son of Lyman and and Clarissa) and Mrs. Sarah Lynn Foote; who were married August 15, 1866:

LILLIAN LYNN, born September 5, 1868.
LYMAN HUNNEWELL, born December 4, 1869.

Mrs. Foote was a daughter of Henry Balcom, and married L. B. Foote in 1848. They had a daughter, Mary Banks, who has taken the name of Mary B. F. Balcom.

Family record of Benjamin (son of Benjamin F. and Eliza) and Melvina E. Dunkle, who were married November 16, 1859:

SAMUEL, born September 15, 1865.
ELIZA, born September 25, 1869.
URI, born January 16, 1877.

Family record of John (son of Benjamin F. and Eliza) and Rhoda A. Carpenter, who were married in 1854:

Rose, born April 26, 1856
Jennie, born September 9, 1858.
Frank, born January 10, 1861.
Harry and Hattie, twins, born October 7, 1862.
Jessie, born January 23, 1867.
Fred and John, twins, born September 22, 1870.
Benjamin, born November 17, 1872.

Luke, son of Benjamin F. and Eliza, married Mary A. Cheswell in 1867. They have one son, Edward Taylor.

Family record of Mark M. (son of Benjamin F. and Eliza) and Anna M. Campbell, who were married October 21, 1868:

Dean C., born August 7, 1869.
Clarence G., born June 7, 1872.
Pete C., born September 12, 1874.

Family record of George E. (son of George F. and Florinda) and Nettie O. Roke, who were married February 18, 1885:

Mabel F., born November 30, 1887.
Nina M., born September 25, 1890.

The death of Miss Lucy A. Balcom in 1901, left but one of the name in Oxford, viz: Mr. Wm. Balcom, who survived her but a year, and thus the strong hand of Time scatters all families, particularly in America, to the four winds. In closing this account of the family it is proper to give special mention to Miss Lucy A. Balcom. As noted in The Oxford Times of April 10, 1901, the old files of this paper with hardly a week's exception show contributions from her ready pen. She wrote the ode for the Jubilee celebration of Oxford Academy in 1854. Many of her townsmen, at home and abroad, were often made aware of her memory on the receipt of a pleasant reminder in

verse of the day of their birth, a day they themselves might have forgotten. She was one of the first to organize the Aid Society that prepared clothing and articles of food and comfort which were sent to the soldiers in the field and hospital from time to time during the War of the Rebellion. The following copy of a letter recites one of the many instances referred to:

The Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of the Union.
New York City P. O., Station D.,
April 15th, 1859.

To Mrs. H. L. Miller, Miss Lucy A. Balcom, Mrs. W. B. Race, Jr., Miss Helen Lobdell, Mrs. Rome, Miss Susan E. Tracy, Committee of Mt. V. L. Association.

LADIES:—Permit me in behalf of the Association, to thank you for the liberal contribution, which the town of Oxford has made, through you to the Mount Vernon Fund—embracing, among its contributors, the pupils of the Academy, and the children of the District Schools.

In this aid, which your citizens have given to preserve this spot sacred to Washington's memory, we feel they have helped to secure what he would value the most, as a tribute to his memory—almost the only thing we can imagine him willing to accept as a personal monument. May it tend to keep him personally before us! with his noble, unselfish, christian devotion to his country—his honest, upright, faithful discharge of duty.

Accept my thanks for the prompt assistance you have given me and believe me,

Yours respectfully,
MARY MORRIS HAMILTON,

These kindly acts and goodly offices to individuals and organizations were continued for years, until age enfeebled the body and impaired the brilliant mind.

Nearly all of the Balcom name whose early lives were spent in Oxford, have passed over to the great majority, but their descendants are glad and proud to have their line of descent appear and know how intimately they are thus associated with the history of Oxford, for it was verily the nesting place of a branch of the family that, because of its numbers at least, bids fair to take some considerable part in the active life of the age, and although they are no longer represented at Oxford, they cherish the thought that they are descendants of sturdy men who looked upon themselves as "citizens of a no mean city."

He is in my opinion, the noblest who has raised himself by his own merit to a higher station.—CICERO.

Loomis Family.

JOSEPH LOOMIS, born in Braintree, England, about 1590, died in Windsor, Ct., November 25, 1658. He was among the passengers on the "Susan and Ellen" from London to New England, September 19, 1635, and in 1639 took up land situated upon "The Island," so called, in Windsor, Ct., which has continued in the ownership and possession of his descendants from that day to this. He built his house fearless of what might befall, and it is believed to be the oldest homestead now standing in the United States. The place also has an added interest by reason of the fact that there is an available fund of $1,600,000 set aside to be used in converting it into an educational institute where girls and boys between the ages of twelve and twenty will be taught in all departments of learning. The fund represents the combined estates of the last five lineal descendants of Joseph Loomis, emigrant ancestor of the name in America. The coat of arms of the family bears the motto in Latin, "Do Not Yield to Evils."

BENAIAH LOOMIS, a native of Egremont, Mass., was born July 15, 1752; married (1) Rachel Patterson; married (2) Mrs. Prudence Corbin. He came to Oxford about the year 1790 and settled on the west side of the river, near the south line of the town, where he died March 8, 1838. His wife, Rachel, died about 1815. Her father, an Irishman, was a tinsmith and first brought tin into America. His descent from Joseph Loomis, the first of the

name in America, is: Joseph, born in 1590; Deacon John, born in 1622; Sergeant Daniel, born in 1657; Josiah, born in 1684; Josiah 2d, born in 1737; Benaiah, born in 1752. Benaiah Loomis was a soldier of the Revolution, and died soon after receiving his pension papers.

Children of Benaiah and Rachel (Patterson) Loomis:

ELIZABETH, born July 15, 1772, died in 1863; married Philip Bartle.

CATHERINE, born March 29, 1774, died in 1856; married Peter Rorapaugh.

EDWARD, born February 2, 1777; married Mary Smith. He was the first settler in East Smithville. In 1800 he cut the first road in Smithville, from Oxford to the Flats, for which he received fifty acres of land, on which he built a log house and moved to with his wife. Mr. Loomis resided on this farm till within three years of his death, when he returned to Oxford and resided with his son Daniel on Clinton street. June 21, 1869, he was found dead in bed, having reached the age of 92 years. His wife died in 1850. Children:

VINCENT, born Oct. 4, 1799, died November 27, 1864 in Smithville, N. Y. Married (1) Mary Williams; married (2) Cynthia Moore; married (3) Mrs. Lucy (Willcox) Hamilton. Child by first wife: Daniel, married Laura Hodges. Children by second wife: Betsey, married William Adams, Polly, married —— Norris; Henry, born in 1832; Married (1) Caroline Landers; married (2) Mrs. Sarah (Bliven) Lewis. [Children of Henry and Caroline (Landers) Loomis: Allie, married Frederick Dibble; Burdett H., unmarried; Millard C., married Grace Brown. All residents of Oxford]. Child by third wife: Jane, married Melvin Hotchkiss. ELEANOR, born May 2, 1801, was the first white child born in Smithville, married Daniel Williams. DANIEL, died March 9, 1896, in Homer, N. Y., aged 86. Married (1) —— Cline; married (2) Mrs. Diantha ——. Children by first wife: Vinson, married Betsey Stewart; Warren, married (1) Huldah Bartle; married (2) Phebe Lewis. [Child by first wife, Perry A.] Lucy M., Clark Edward, Betsie M., married Samuel Cline. [Child, Mary, married D. D. Newton of Homer]. Ransom, Floyd, married Fanny Nelson. LAVINA, married Charles Stratton. HANNAH,

married Gates Willcox. LOIS, married Jonathan Bennett. RACHEL, married Charles Williams. ABIGAIL, married Joel Webb. ELLEN, married Thurston Willcox. BENAIAH, married Christmas day, 1839, Sarah A., daughter of Squire and Nancy (Whittenhall) Hamilton, who died June 28, 1905, in Smithville, aged 85. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 1904 by a family gathering. Children: Alexander, unmarried; Edward B, married (1) Josephine Lewis; married (2) Louise Walworth; Sarah, married Arvine S. Lewis; Emeline, married (1) Adelbert Flagg; married (2) John Hanford of Greene; Ward, died in infancy; Mary Vernett, married Clark L. Webb. BETSEY, married George Starkey.

TABITHA, born June, 1779, died in 1861; married Peter Bartle.

RUTH, born March 20, 1781, died in 1835; married Jedu-than Greene.

DANIEL, born February 14, 1783, died November 18, 1854; married Sarah Ten Broeck. Children:

MARIA B., born September 3, 1801, died October 4, 1850; married George Sharp. ALVIRA, born June 3, 1804, died March 21, 1864; married Dan Robinson. LOVICA, born August 28, 1806, married Jeremiah Tillotson. EDWARD, born September 28, 1808, died September 14, 1834; married Philanda Burke. JOHN, born March 2, 1813, died March 6, 1832. WHEATON, born April 11, 1817, died January 22, 1890; married (1) Catherine McGowan; married (2) Mrs. Cynthia McGuire. Children by first wife: Jeremiah T., married Maria Wheeler; Elvira, married Daniel P. Leach. DAN T., born September 5, 1816, died in 1896; married Ruth Ann Williamson. Children: Charles W., Julia, married Oscar Briggs; Henry B., married —— Breed. CHARLOTTE, born April 15, 1822; married William Williamson. POLLY ANN, born May 21, 1824; married Nathan Smith. SARAH ANN, twin to Polly Ann, died in infancy.

JANE, born March 21, 1785, died in girlhood.

AMY, born February 25, 1788, died in 1823; married John Stevens.

NANCY, born May 22, 1790, died in 1846; married Chauncey Hill.

My name and memory, I leave it to men's charitable speeches, * * * and to the next ages.—BACON.

General Benjamin Hovey.

General Benjamin Hovey, a soldier of the Revolution, came to Oxford in November, 1791, and moved his family into a log house built by him the previous year near the present residence of William M. Miller on Fort Hill, which was also used by him as a land office. It was he who gave our town a name.

Benjamin Hovey was a native of Oxford, Mass., born March 12, 1758, and son of Daniel and Ruth (Tyler) Hovey, of Sutton and Oxford, Mass. Losing his father at an early age, and being the youngest but one of eleven children, with the family left in narrow circumstances, his chance of education was small, which was the regret of his life. At the age of 18, while he was deputy sheriff of Worcester county, which office he held for nearly fourteen years, he married Lydia Haven, daughter of Deacon John Haven of Sutton. He did almost entirely the sheriff's business of that large county in those arduous times which succeeded the Revolution and preceded the Shays insurrection. Possessed of a good constitution, an athletic form, and a strong mind sharpened by ambition, and enterprising, he rode night and day in the discharge of his duties for many years, and retired from the office with credit and honor. In the Shays insurrection, he was an active partisan on the government side and assisted as lieutenant in quelling the rebellion. Soon after this difference was adjusted, his liberality in entertaining the large acquaintance he had

made in the county drew very hard upon his resources and he was compelled to seek a home in the then unsettled portion of this State, where he could support according to his desire a young and increasing family. He first settled on the Susquehanna, four miles west of Wattles' ferry, near the present village of Unadilla, where he continued to reside till November, 1791, when he removed to Oxford, or upon lot No. 92 in Fayette.

From this time on he was successful in business, proving to be the right man for the new community, and was often referred to as the "father of the settlement." He was intimately acquainted with George Clinton, the first Governor of the State of New York, Melancton Smith, General Lamb, Jonathan Lawrence, General Thomas of Westchester, Colonel Willett, and many other prominent men of that day. In the year 1798 he was a Member of the Legislature, and procured the formation of Chenango county, of which he was one of the Judges. Aaron Burr was a member of the same session and they became intimately acquainted. General Hovey was also a member of the board of trustees of Oxford Academy for a term of ten years, and during that period was absent but from one recorded meeting. During an absence from home shortly after his removal here, his family preserved life for some days by eating the grain from the ear in an unripe state. Being hospitable and generous beyond what his means would justify, he was unable to amass wealth. He was an expert promoter, but the expense often proved too heavy to ensure success. About the year 1804 he went to Ohio, and in connection with General Wilkinson and Aaron Burr, then vice-president of the United States; and several others, projected the plan of canaling the Ohio at the falls opposite Louisville. Some of the prominent men in the country formed a company, and General Hovey was appointed their agent and given extensive control of the

work. This project indicated valuable advantages but was defeated of its success by Burr's expedition down the Mississippi, which created a rupture between Burr and Wilkinson. General Hovey remained some time in that vicinity and attempted to raise a new company, but his principal patrons had disagreed, disheartening those who remained, and General Hovey, having spent nearly $1,500 in the affair, became discouraged and retired to the banks of Lake Erie, where he died in 1811. He had many warm friends throughout the State, and his enemies were those made during his political career.

While a colonel of militia, and during a political campaign, he was tried for disobedience of orders by a Federal Court Martial and crushed in spirit; but the trickety of this prejudiced Court Martial was made known to Governor Clinton, who was much displeased at the affair and at the next Council appointed him a brigadier general.

The children of Benjamin and Lydia (Haven) Hovey were seven, as follows:

Alphena, married James Glover, at Oxford, N. Y., in 1795. They probably removed to Auburn, N. Y., and she was the ancestress of the Glovers, Rathbones, Johnsons and Tiffts, of Auburn. Also of the descendants of William Glover of Ottawa, Ill., of the Hauptmans and Gages of East Saginaw, Mich., and of Ex-Governor Gage of California.

Ruth, the wife of Hon. Uri Tracy, and ancestress of the Tracys.

Nancy, married Zalmon Smith of Oxford. They lived in Oxford and kept tavern on the site of the old Brigham tavern where Dr. C. H. Eccleston's house now stands. They afterwards removed to Greene, on the hill east of the village.

MARY, married Nathaniel Locke, the father of Charles F. T. Locke, an old time merchant of Oxford. She was the ancestress of the Smiths, of Portsmouth, Ohio.

ALFRED, of Montezuma, Cayuga county, ancestor of the Hoveys, Colvins and others, of Syracuse. He died at Syracuse, March 24, 1854, aged 76. He was one of the original Erie canal contractors and assisted in building the canal through the Cayuga marshes, in erecting the acqueduct at Rochester, and in blasting through the mountain ridge at Lockport.

OTIS, a portrait painter, of New York, who probably died unmarried.

SAMUEL, died young.

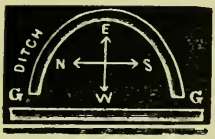
WHIGS CELEBRATE.—The Whigs of this village and vicinity met at their old headquarters at Brigham's hotel on Clinton street, November 16, 1848, to mingle their congratulations over the election of * "Old Zack," and to partake of an oyster supper. The occasion was joyous, the attendance large, and the enthusiasm was brimful and running over. At intervals a deep-mouthed cannon bellowed out the hoarse notes of victory, while shouts and cheers rang out upon the air. Several spirited speeches were made, and the supper ended with the march of a large procession through the streets headed by a band.

* Zachary Taylor, twelfth President of the United States.

JOSEPH COOK came to Oxford from Stockbridge, Mass., in 1807, and was for a time proprietor of a hotel on the west side of the river. He removed to Greene. He had a family of twelve children.

I love everything that's old. Old friends, old times, old manners, old books, old wine.—GOLDSMITH.

Indian Antiquities.



Oxford boasts of Indian antiquities and of these the most interesting was the earthwork fort in the village, the remains of which were quite noticeable in the early settlement of the town, and were found on a mound which has since been called Fort Hill. The fort was one of the most eastern of the many fortifications in this and the western states, which at one time attracted considerable attention. Nothwithstanding the scientific remarks of Dr. Mitchell, DeWitt Clinton, and others, as to their origin, there is still an uncertainty with nothing but conjecture to guide one. The Oneida Indians had a tradition running seven generations back, but they could not tell who built the fort. From this and other circumstances, it is supposed to have been made before the discovery of this country by the Europeans. The fort was on a piece of land containing two and a half acres and was about thirty feet in height. This rise of land lies along the river bank about fifty rods, and at the southeasterly end the fort was situated, which enclosed about three-fourths of an acre of land which was heavily timbered with beech and maple trees in 1788. Outlines of breastworks from seven to ten feet in thickness were plainly to be seen at an early date. The fort was semi-circular in form like the old diagram above. Its base was toward the river, its curved sides encircled by

a well defined ditch about four feet in depth, save at the ends, where gaps ten feet wide, were left for entrances.

The antiquity of this fortification is more particularly evident from the fact that on the stump of a large pine tree, whose roots extended under and conforming to the ditch, one hundred and ninety-five circles could be counted proving an origin later than the fort, which was estimated from three hundred to four hundred years. It must have been a formidable place against the bow and arrow, and war club. The situation was pleasant and eligible in every point of view, commanding a beautiful prospect up and down the river, and there was no high land in easy distance to annoy the garrison. Human bones, ancient earthern cooking utensils and other relics were found when excavations were made. In October, 1897, while workmen were engaged in trenching the village for the system of water works they uncovered parts of two skeletons. The bones were found at a depth of five feet and were in the highway near the crosswalk west of the Congregational church.

The Oneida Indians had a tradition connecting this fort with a giant chief called Thick Neck, a deadly foe to the Oneidas, who is said to have occupied it. The tradition is that the Antones, supposed to have belonged to the Tuscarora Nation, were the seventh generation from the inhabitants of the fort, among whom was the chief Thick Neck. When the Oneidas came into this vicinity he destroyed them, notwithstanding their many attempts to decoy him out of his stronghold. At last they succeeded in getting between him and the fort, when Thick Neck quickly turned, ran down the river to *Warn's pond and secreted himself in the marsh; but was soon discovered

* Now called Lake Warn since the advent of summer cottages.

and being unable to combat with the enemy, was killed. That no vestige should remain of the terrible chief, who in life was feared and hated, the Oneidas buried the body on the bank, the earth was leveled and leaves placed over the grave, and to this day no sign of his burial place has been found. The remnant of Thick Neck's tribe were adopted by the Oneidas.

Nearly three miles above the village on the west bank of the river is a mound of earth, which in earlier days was one hundred feet in circumference at the base, and ten feet high, and evidently the work of man. At the beginning of the settlement deep excavations were made and large quantities of a substance, supposed to be human bones, and several curious and fancy shaped stones were found, evidently formed by an artistic hand. This discovery led to a careful examination in the vicinity, which failed to find any signs of a fortification. It is supposed the place was the scene of a terrible battle and the mound a receptacle for the slain. As a corroborating circumstance, the mound is situated nearly midway between the old fort in this village and the one below Norwich. Its origin and the event it was intended to commemorate will never be known, but it evidently belongs to the same class of antiquities with Thick Neck's stronghold on Fort Hill. The builders and those whose memory it was evidently designed to perpetuate, like many proud memorials of human ambition, have been obliterated by the hand of time.

On Padgett's brook, four miles below the village, there were in 1850 a succession of twenty-five disunited embankments having the appearance of a fortified place. They varied from one to two feet in elevation above the level of the surrounding lands, and supported a growth of aged trees.

Great of heart, magnanimous, courtly, courageous.—LONGFELLOW.

Tracy Family.

Uri Tracy, eldest son of Daniel and Mary (Johnson) Tracy, was born at Norwich, Conn., February 8, 1764. He graduated at Yale College in 1789 and became a Presbyterian clergyman, and a missionary to the Indians; came to Oxford in 1791 where, on August 28, 1793, he married, Ruth, daughter of General Benjamin Hovey.

Mr. Tracy was the first principal of Oxford Academy, in the establishment of which he was a prime mover; and at his death was president of the Board of Trustees of that institution. He was first sheriff of the county, his term of office extending from 1798 to 1801.

Under the apportionment of March 31, 1802, the county had four representatives in the Assembly, and in 1803 Mr. Tracy, together with James Green, Joel Thompson and Stephen Hoxie were the members from Chenango. He was member of Congress from 1805-7, and again 1809-13; county clerk from 1801 to 1815; also the town's first postmaster, and the office was kept, together with the county clerk's office, in the basement of his residence on what is now Albany street on the lot now occupied by the residence of William Dunn.

He was appointed first judge of Chenango county July 8, 1819, and continued in that office until he was sixty years of age which was the constitutional age limit for holding the same.

Mrs. Tracy was born in Oxford, Worcester county, Mass., December 8, 1775. She was for thirty years a communicant of St. Paul's church, and with her husband was confirmed by Bishop Hobart in 1816.

Mr. Tracy died at his home in Oxford, July 21, 1838, aged 75 years. The following is an extract from his obituary notice published in the Oxford Republican, July 25, 1838:

All that is estimable in the husband, father, and friend, was possessed by him in an eminent degree. There are few men whose equanimity was so constantly maintained, or whose whole course of conduct seemed to be regulated by such fixedness of principle. He did not aim to excel in any particular line of life, but rather strove to be useful in all, and to that end he directed the best energies of a highly cultivated and well balanced mind.

He was a patron of literature and science, and was identified with the improvements of the age, and every charitable and public project which promised usefulness, shared equally in his counsel, and in his munificence.

He lived above reproach, and a large circle of friends and acquaintances will long cherish the recollection of his many virtues.

For a short period he was engaged in the Revolutionary struggle, and his love of liberty, and the institutions of his country, manifested through life, show how deeply his mind was imbued with the spirit that animated the patriots of that eventful period.

As a private citizen no man was more universally esteemed, and very few have filled so many important public offices and trusts with equal fidelity; and it may be truly said of him, that he lived and died a philanthropist and a Christian.

Mrs. Tracy died at Oxford, January 31, 1846. Their children, in whose veins the blood of * Lieutenant Thomas

*Lieutenant Tracy rendered conspicuous civil and military service in the early days of the Colony of Connecticut, and was one of the founders of the town of Norwich. He was a direct descendant of the Emperor Charlemagne, the early Dukes and Kings of France and Jerusalem, William the Conquerer and the Dukes of Normandy, the Counts of Flanders, the West Saxon and Saxon Kings of England, and many other royal and noble houses. His paternal ancestor, the Sire de Tracy, was a Norman nobleman, and an officer in the army which invaded England under William of Normandy, A D. 1066.

Lieutenant Tracy, of Norwich, Conn., is the ancestor of the Tracy family of America, and of all who have descended from them. The descent of the Hon. Uri Tracy of Oxford from Lieut. Thomas Tracy is as follows: Lieut. Thomas, Capt. John, John 2d, John 3d, Daniel, Hon. Uri.

Tracy of Connecticut was mingled with that of the Winslows of Massachusetts, were:

Samuel Miles Tracy (eldest son of Hon. Uri) was born in Oxford June 26, 1795; graduated at Hamilton college in 1815, studied law three years with Henry Van Der Lyn, Esq., was admitted in 1818, and in November of that year, he left Oxford for the "far west," traveling on horseback, and reaching Portsmouth, Ohio, he decided to locate there. He grew with the growth of the place until he stood at the head of the bar. He held the office of Prosecuting Attorney for Scioto county for twenty-nine consecutive years. Judge Evans, in his history of Scioto county, says: "He was perhaps the best lawyer who ever practised in Portsmouth." He aided in building the first Episcopal church in Portsmouth. He was twice married; had one son and three daughters by his first wife. He died in Portsmouth, December 25, 1856, aged 61.

Otis J. Tracy, was born in Oxford September 17, 1797, and always resided in the county. Unassuming in his manners, and retiring in his habits, he instinctively shrunk from the strife and turmoil of political life. He was, however, for several successive years Supervisor of Oxford, and discharged the duties of the office with ability and fidelity. While his talents and integrity commanded the respect and esteem of all, the kindly sympathies of his manly heart endeared him to a large circle of friends. Col. Tracy died at Oxford, August 21, 1850, aged 53. He was thrice married. His first wife, Jane D. Hyde, died November 13, 1820, at the age of 19, leaving a son, Joseph O., born May 2, 1820, and who died at Northumberland, Pa. His second wife, Eliza Cushman, died August 19, 1828, leaving two daughters, Jane E., who married Luman B. Fish, and Mary D., who married Dr. William W. Packer. Mr. Tracy then married for his third wife Mar-

garet Storms. Their children, besides three who died in infancy, were:

ROSWELL S., born 1830, enlisted in 1862 in Co. K, 10th N. Y. Cav., served three years, and died at Big Flats, N. Y., April 2, 1874. Married Elizabeth Brooks of Oxford, died May 5, 1899. JOHN S., born in 1831; died in Michigan. SARAH SOPHIA, born in 1836; married Charles Everson, and died in Michigan. WILLIAM E., born in 1838; died in Oxford April 4, 1901; married Helen Devoll. Children: John, married Lucretia VanTassell; Jennie, married John Beckwith; William, unmarried. CHARLES, born in 1840; enlisted in 12th Mass. Regt. and was killed at Antietam, September 17, 1862; unmarried. HENRY H., born 1843; enlisted in 44th N. Y. Regt, was wounded near Richmond, and died January 12, 1897 in Oxford from the result of a runaway accident. Married Mary Delia Brooks. Children: Charles, Frederick F., married Arlette Curtis; Maude, married Joseph Collingwood; Ross.

URI TRACY, JR., was born in Oxford January 24, 1800, and on January 15, 1826, married Persis Packer, daughter of William Packer, Esq., of Preston, N. Y. He spent the whole of his life in the village, and on the estate where he was born. Was engaged some years in merchandizing. He was elected Justice of the Peace six consecutive terms of four years each. He was often the nominee of both political parties, and at such times elected without opposition. His decisions were rarely reversed in the higher courts, and he acquired the name, "the upright magistrate." He had served nearly the last term, making twenty-four years in office, when he died April 6, 1856, aged 56. His widow survived him but one year and died May 3, 1857, aged 54. The children were:

SUSAN HOSMER, born in Oxford May 4, 1827. Married John H. Morris of Syracuse September 19, 1849, and died in Lock Haven, Pa., August 8, 1861, aged 34. He died in Syracuse August, 1862. They left one daughter, Clara Mae, born at Oxford, November 26, 1850, who married William M. Pursell, of Portsmouth, Ohio, and they had eight children, born in Portsmouth, CHARLES PACKER, born in Oxford December 5, 1829, removed to Portsmouth, Ohio, in 1851, where he became prominent in business and founded the business house of C. P. Tracy & Co., now in its fifty-second year. He mar-

ried Isabella, daughter of Captain William McClain, and died in Portsmouth, January 16, 1874, aged 45. HENRY READ, born in Oxford, December 9, 1833; removed to Portsmouth, Ohio, in September, 1857, and entered the business house of C. P. Tracy & Co. with which he is still connected after forty-eight years. In May, 1864, enlisted in Co. E, 140th Ohio Volunteer Intantry in which he served as Second Lieutenant. Was Director and Vice-President of the Portsmouth National Bank from 1875. Removed to Boston, Mass., in 1886, where he has since resided, unmarried. JOHN BAILEY, born in Oxford, April 12, 1838; removed to Ohio in 1853. Enlisted in May, 1864, in Co. F, 140th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving therein as Sergeant. Served several terms as Treasurer of the City of Portsmouth and County of Scioto. Married Eliza Brady, and is now living near Portsmouth, having six children (living) and numerous grandchildren.

Mary Tracy, only daughter of Hon. Uri, was born in Oxford, August 17, 1802; married Peter Dickinson who was extensively engaged in the lumber business in Pennsylvania, with yards in Baltimore. Their home in Oxford was on the corner, the present residence of Dr. J. W. Thorp. They removed to Baltimore, and some years later to Lock Haven, Pa., where she died February 26, 1868. Mr. Dickinson died in Wellsboro, Pa. Their children were: Charles Oscar, born in Oxford, May 4, 1827; was married, and died in Wellsboro, Pa. Peter Tracy, who was born in Oxford, was twice married, had two sons by his first wife and was living in San Francisco, Cal., in 1890.

Charles Oscar Tracy, youngest son of Hon. Uri, was born in Oxford, August 20, 1804. He was educated in Oxford Academy, and studied law with Henry Van Der Lyn, Esq. Removed to Portsmouth, Ohio, in 1826, where he located as a lawyer. He married December 20, 1827, Maria Kinney, daughter of Aaron Kinney, Esq., of Portsmouth. They had nine children, all born in Portsmouth, where he died October 19, 1855, aged 51. Mr. Tracy left to his native place the example of his virtuous life, and the memory of his honored and unblemished name.

Hial Tracy, second son of Daniel and Mary (Johnson) Tracy, was born July 5, 1776, in Norwich, Ct. He married Susanna Gifford of that place and they removed to Oxford about 1803, locating with his brother Daniel on the Lobdell farm, where his children were born. After the death of his brother, he bought what is now known as the John M. Green farm, where he died Jannary 17, 1842, and his wife May 22, 1857. His nephew Daniel remained on the Lobdell farm. Mr. Tracy was a younger brother of the Hon. Uri Tracy, then settled in Oxford, which no doubt was the reason of his coming to the same town. Mrs. Tracy was sister of Joseph Gifford of Norwich, Ct., who also removed to Oxford. Children:

Melissa, born in Connecticut; married Ebenezer Havens, lived at Dix, Schuyler county, and had four children.

Eliza, born in Connecticut; married John Green of Oxford. Children: Susan Eliza; married Abner R. Holcomb. John M., married Marie E. Townsend. Mary M., died young. Mai V., died young. Lucy Ann, married Wilson G. Mowry, lived and died in Steuben county.

Susan, born in Connecticut; married Ira R. Main; lived and died in Schuyler county.

Sophia, born in Oxford; died August 14, 1869; married Dyar McCall of Oxford. Child: Olive E., married Benjamin F. Edwards.

Daniel Tracy 2d, youngest son of Daniel and Mary (Johnson) Tracy, and brother of Hon. Uri Tracy, with his wife and son, Daniel 3d, came from Norwich, Conn., about the year 1803, with his brother Hial and family. They settled a mile and a half south of the village on what was then known as the Gordon farm, now the Lobdell farm. The house was a large one and the two brothers with their families occupied it together, and it was here that most of their children were born. After the death of Daniel and

his wife on the farm, it was occupied by Daniel 3d, who in April, 1833 sold it to Henry Balcom and moved to Townsend, N. Y., where he died March 16, 1858, aged 74 years. He married in Oxford, Mary Havens, who died September 22, 1854, in Townsend. Children all born in Oxford:

Lucy, born in 1803, died July, 1865, in Havana, N. Y.; married in Oxford Cyrus B. Main. Children: Louisa, married in Townsend, George Corwin; died in Havana, 1872. Philura, married William Cushing; died in Dix, N. Y., 1862. Alonzo, married M. Eliza Collins; died in Dix. Tracy C., married Ellen Haumer, both reside in Ithaca.

Isaac J., born October 15, 1805; died April 11, 1891; married November 16, 1828, Lydia Beverly. Children: James M.; married (1) Ann Chapman; married (2) in Pennsylvania. Eunice A., born August 9, 1831; died August 11, 1843. Sarah J., married George H. Chapman. Elmon L., married Roxana L. Ransom. Had three children, one living.

Eunice, born 1807; died July 6, 1840; married Caspar Evans. Had two children.

Ira, born August 9, 1809; died May 25, 1881; married Cornelia Chase. Had seven children.

Albert, born September, 1812; died January 24, 1884; unmarried.

Ebenezer, born April, 1815; died January 20, 1894; married Catherine M. Chapman.

Daniel 4th, born January 24, 1817; died October 12, 1877; married (1) Sarah A. Lewis; married (2) Louisa Watkins in Havana, N. Y. Four children by first wife, two by the second.

Sylvanus H., born February 3, 1820; died May 11,

1887; married (1) Maria Hamilton in Townsend; married (2) Maria A. Chapman. One daughter by first wife.

John G., born January 3, 1822; married April 1, 1855, Mrs. Sarah A. Evans, both residing at Townsend.

Mary Tracy, sister of Uri, Hial and Daniel, was born September 22, 1722, in Norwich, Ct. She came to Oxford and married Daniel Baldwin of East McDonough, N. Y. Her death occurred January 7, 1829, at the age of 56. Children: Mary, died July 23, 1860, aged 56; married Pardon Smith, of Oxford. Jemima, died May 14, 1886, aged 79; married Horace Corbin of McDonough. Electra, died young.

JONATHAN BALDWIN owned a piece of flat land above the river bridge. One summer after he had cut a fine quality of grass and cocked it up the river rose rapidly from a heavy storm and carried the cocks down the river. On discovering his loss he hastened to the bridge and as a particularly large cock was about to pass under, threw his pitchfork into it exclaiming: "If God Almighty wants that hay, he wants a fork to pitch it with."

THE FIRST PHYSICIAN to settle in Oxford was Dr. Timothy Eliot, who was born at Killingworth, Ct., in 1773. But little is on record of him except that he died November 2, 1796.

THE FORT HILL MILL was built in 1793 or '4, by Theodore Burr and Jonathan Baldwin, the former of whom owned it. It is still "grinding away."

And him who, with the steady sledge,
Smites the shrill anvil all day long.—BRYANT.

McNeil Family.

John McNeil, born December 4, 1767, and Mary (Wise) McNeil, born December 8, 1770, with their two sons, Ira and Luman, came to Oxford from Hillsdale, Columbia county, in February, 1791. They first settled in the vicinity of Lake Warn, a few years thereafter removed to the place next below the Lobdell farm, where he died July 26, 1832, aged 64. His wife died March 15, 1843, aged 73.

At the time of their arrival there were but one frame and some two or three log houses where the village now stands; consequently they became familiar with the privations and hardships inseparably connected with a new and unsettled country, when but a lodging place had been made in our village, and all around it was dense forests, in which roamed wild beasts, from which at night their roar and angry cries could be heard.

Mr. McNeil took up a hundred acres of land, but was chiefly occupied with his trade, that of blacksmith. Mrs. McNeil was one of the few who constituted the Baptist church in this village. Children:

IRA, born October 30, 1789; married Clarinda Houck of Lee, Mass. Worked several years with his father at blacksmithing, which he afterwards pursued in the village till his death, October 30, 1841, aged 52. His wife died March 27, 1841, aged 53. Children:

JOHN, died February 9, 1893; married Helen L., daughter of General Chas. M. Reed of Erie, Pa. They lived the latter part of

their lives in Elmira, N. Y., where they died. Children: Charles, Rufus, Clara, Agnes, Nelly, Frankie, John and Mary. CHARLES, married Mary Jane Denison of Oxford. Moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1853, where he died January 27, 1900, aged 84. Mrs. McNeil still resides in that city. Children; Frank, born in 1841; married (1) Lois LeVake; married (2) Johannah Fitzgerald. (Three children by first marriage, Nelly, William and Mary). William Denison, born in 1844, went into the Civil war, contracted army fever and died at home August 25, 1864. Abby Jane, married Julius M. Carrington of Michigan and lives in Cleveland, Ohio. (Three children, Anna Denison, Mary Belle, and Charles McNeil). HENRY, married and died in California. PETER S. S., married Abby Billings of Elmira, where they both lived and died. His death occurring February 21, 1881, aged 55. FREDERICK B., died November 3, 1893, aged 67; married (1) Eliza A. Bradley, who died in 1870, leaving one child Kate; married (2) Mrs. Susan White, who died January 9, 1906. Kate, daughter of Frederick B, and Eliza (Bradley) McNeil; married Sidney Dennis, died in Iowa in 1888, leaving two sons and one daughter. LEVERET, married, lived and died in Elmira. KATE, married (1) Benjamin Nichols of Lee, Mass.; married (2) Andrew Craig of Jasper, N. Y. Children: Edward, Andrew and Albert, twins, and Charles.

LUMAN, born January 31, 1792; married in 1810, Fitche Church of Oxford, with whom he lived for a period of more than sixty-five years. In 1813 he moved to Coventryville and there worked at his trade as a blacksmith until 1815, when he returned to Oxford and took up his residence in this village. He remained for nearly thirty years, when he retired to the farm where his long life was peacefully and quietly closed December 23, 1879, at the age of 88. From 1849 to 1853, Mr. McNeil was postmaster, and from time to time held many town offices. He was the last survivor of the earliest settlers and residents of the town and village. Mrs. McNeil died May 20, 1876, aged 87. Children: George, born May 18, 1816; died February 10, 1883. Fitche, (adopted) died December 15, 1845, aged 19.

SOPHIA, born February 7, 1794; died January 1, 1866; married Erastus Smith.

LEWIS, born August 27, 1796; died in Delaware county; married Clara Warn. Children: Andrew, James, Dwight, John, Thomas, Ann Eliza, married Leveret Rathbone of Greene; Elizabeth, Susan, married George N. Palmer of Chenango Forks, N. Y., died January 2, 1905, in Elmira; Julia, married Andrew J. Rockwell; died February 3, 1905, in Elmira.

CHARLOTTE, born December 6, 1798; died December 29, 1891, in South Oxford; married David Willoughby.

JOHN G., born March 17, 1800; died January 31, 1866. Unmarried.

ANDREW M., born September 17, 1805; died January 23, 1868, in Oxford. Married Eliza Maria Smith, died July 31, 1887, aged 71. Children:

GEORGE L., born February 13, 1837; married Lucia Miller of South Oxford, born September 17, 1838. Children: Merrit A., born February 23, 1866; died March 18, 1893, E. WARD, born April 5, 1869. CLARK, born April 27, 1839; married Marion Webb of Oxford. Children: Nellie, married Norris Carnegie; Mary, married Eli Willcox. MARY SOPHIA, born June 28, 1841; died January 7, 1852. MILLARD D., (See article following). FITCHE, born December 25, 1847; died July 8, 1848.

CHARLES A., born November 17, 1807; died May 30, 1884, in Lanesboro, Pa.; married Philura Main, who died November 25, 1879, in Oxford, aged 73. Children: Ray, died November 22, 1847, aged 17; Theodore F., married Mary Annette Westover; Harriet, married Frank A. Lyon of Lanesboro, Pa.; Achsa, married Edward F. Phelps of Binghamton.

MILLARD D. MCNEIL was born September 12, 1844, on the farm now owned by Mrs. Alice E. McCall one mile below the village. He spent his early years in labor upon the farm and in attending the common schools, finishing his education at Oxford Academy. His first work away from home was teaching district school; but one term satisfied

him that that profession was not to his liking and he secured a clerkship at a small salary in the store of William Balcom, then a leading groceryman of Oxford. After a few years he entered the dry goods business, associated with his brother George and Cyrus A. Bacon. After a short time the partnership was dissolved and Mr. McNeil accepted a clerkship in the mercantile firm of Clarke Brothers, where he developed a shrewd business insight which eventually led to his entrance into the firm as junior partner. Here he became identified with the leading commercial and business interests of the town. Retiring from the firm in 1885, he embarked in the grocery trade with W. A. Carl, whose interest he subsequently purchased and conducted the business until he disposed of it to Whitney & Pughe. Mr. McNeil was appointed postmaster by President McKinley in 1899, and reappointed by President Roosevelt in 1903. He married January 8, 1868, Mary A. Flagg, of Smithville, N. Y. Children: Clarence H., married January 18,1899, Elise Hampton of Poughkeepie; entered West Point Military Academy in 1892; graduated in June, 1896, with rank of Second Lieutenant. Now holds the rank of Captain and is stationed at Fort Totten, New York harbor. Frederick A., teller First National Bank, Oxford.

BRADFORD CHURCH, born December 7, 1795, in Oxford; died December 26, 1884, at Rock Falls, Iowa. At an early age he married Miss Anna W. Barnes of Oxford, who died in October, 1884, at Como, Ill., aged 87 years.

DACRE WARNE was the original settler of the land on which is located the pleasure resort now known as Lake Warn.

Thou bringest * * * *
Letters unto trembling hands.—TENNYSON.

Mail Service in Early Days.

In the early days of the town before the official appointment of any regular post-rider, letters were carried by chance travelers. The tavern and family rooms in private houses were used as gathering places for the mail. Letters were thrown carelessly on an open table or tavern bar, for all comers to pull over till the owners claimed them.

Uri Tracy was Oxford's first postmaster, and John Tracy succeeded him soon after his arrival in 1805, holding the office till 1838, when Peleg Glover was appointed. Following is the succession of postmasters: James W. Clarke, 1841; Cyrus A. Bacon, 1843; Luman McNeil, 1849; Cyrus A. Bacon, 1853; James W. Glover, 1861; Benjamin M. Pearne, 1878; Frederick P. Newkirk, 1886; Bradford G. Greene, 1890; Herbert Emerson, 1895; Millard D. McNeil, the present incumbent, 1899.

In 1802 the only post-town in Chenango county bore the name of "Oxford Academy."

In 1817, the postmaster at Oxford received a salary of $127.93; at Norwich $103.20, and Bainbridge a yearly sum of $6.00.

In 1826 it took a calfskin to pay the postage on a letter. It is told of a woman of that day, who received notice from the postmaster that she had a letter upon which twenty-five cents were due, and not having that amount of money, she without help killed and skinned a calf, selling the hide to

a tanner, for which she received twenty-five cents and was thus enabled to get her letter.

The first mail carrier was Charles Thorp, of whom nothing is now known.

When the postoffice was established at McDonough, about 1825, the mail was carried on horseback in saddlebags to that place from Oxford every Saturday.

FOURTH OF JULY BATTLES.—During the early '20s and even many years later, the boys of the east and west sides of the village used to gather every Fourth of July and fire any old missle at each other. Those on the east side were stationed at the base of Fort Hill, and those on the west side on Navy Island. The engagement was usually watched by many spectators, who loudly applauded when an especially effective "shot" was made. After the sport became monotonous a flag of truce was raised and hostilities ceased. As both parties were satisfied a retreat was ordered, those on the east side retiring to a point near the Fort Hill block and then to the common, now Washington park, in front of Perkins Hotel. The west side boys retired to the common, now La Fayette park, where the usual fun and frolic of Independence Day was indulged in by each party to their heart's content. In those days Independence Day was not forgotten, and the erection of a Liberty pole on the common on the west side of the town was an episode of yearly occurrence. It was guarded all night lest the east side boys might capture it.

"I despise them all. If," said Mr. Stiggins, "if there is any of them less odious than another, it is the liquor called rum—warm, my dear young friend, with three lumps of sugar to the tumbler."—DICKENS.

Bartle Family.

John W. Bartle came from Germany previous to the Revolution and settled in Columbia county, and in or about the year 1791 removing to Oxford with his six sons and one daughter, and failing by some wrong doing of others to secure land which had been promised him, settled on the west side of Chenango river at the mouth of Bowman's creek, four miles below the village, on the place owned and occupied for many years by his great-grandson, Erwin D. Bartle. There Mr. Bartle kept the first inn in the town, and there he, his son David, his grandson West, and his great-grandson Erwin D. Bartle, lived and died. His children were:

JOHN, a harness maker by trade, who lived and plied his vocation in various parts of the town in which he also died. He married (1) Miss Duffey, by whom he had ten children; married (2) Lydia Tuttle, who bore him ten more. Nineteen children attended his funeral.

PETER, born September 24, 1769; died in Ohio, March 22, 1831. He located on what was afterwards known as the Jacob Buckley farm, and was a surveyor, running all the township's lines in this vicinity. He married twice; his first wife was Tabitha Loomis, daughter of Benaiah Loomis. This marriage, which took place in May, 1795, was the first one contracted in the town. Four children

were born to them: Annis, Uri, Caroline, and Lot. Soon after the close of the war of 1812, Mr. Bartle went west, where he contracted his second marriage and had seven children.

HENDRICK, took up his residence where Cyrus Crandall now lives; married Tabitha White, by whom he had eight children. Both he and his wife continued to reside on the homestead where they settled until their deaths.

PHILIP, born in 1772, settled where Lewis Ketchum now lives; married Betsey Loomis, born in 1770, a daughter of Benaiah Loomis, and with whom he lived in unbroken harmony nearly seventy years. They had no children. "Mr. Bartle built the first school house and his wife was the first teacher," says the State Gazetteer; but it appears that the Academy was the first school house and Uri Tracy the first teacher. "Uncle Philip" and "Aunt Betty," as they were familiarly known, were universally kind to all, and their home on Panther Hill was known far and wide as a haven of rest for the poor and needy, and of unbounded hospitality. Mr. Bartle later in life bought the farm where Harvey J. Stratton now lives, where he died October 1, 1861, in his 90th year. Mrs. Bartle died July 28, 1864, aged 94 years.

ANDREW, married and settled in South Oxford; he afterward moved with his family to Junius, N. Y., where he and his wife died.

DAVID, succeeded to the ownership of the homestead, where he and his wife, Rhoda West, died. Eight children were born to them.

ELIZABETH, married Henry Gordon.

Joy to the Toiler!—him that tills
The fields with Plenty crowned;
Him with the woodsman's axe that thrills
The wilderness profound.—HATHAWAY.

Solomon Dodge.

Solomon Dodge was born in 1767 in Vermont and came to Oxford in 1791 from Sidney in company with Daniel Tucker. There were but two houses in the village at that time. He was in the employment of General Hovey and worked under him in cutting the road from the Unadilla river to the Chenango at Oxford. His second coming to Oxford was in the fall of 1795 in company with Mrs. Jonathan Baldwin, who came through from Egremont, Mass. At this time he settled on what is known as the Morse farm, owned by Alpha and Edward Morse. Mr. Dodge made a small clearing, using the logs to build his first house, which had neither chimney or windows, excepting a hole in the roof and a blanket for a door. After he had cut the trees far enough away so that they would not fall on the building, he put up a second log house, which was considered quite luxurious, for it had doors, windows and chimney. He married Dorcas Burlingame not far from 1796, who was born March 12, 1766, in Vermont. She had one sister, Azubah, and one brother, Ritchison, who was the first surveyor of the town. Mr. Dodge sold out in 1802, to Daniel Denison, and returned to Willet where he purchased a large farm, but meeting with many reverses, returned to Oxford after five or six years and settled west of the village in what is known as "Dodge Hollow," where he died of numb palsy in April, 1830. The only descendants of Mr. Dodge now living in Oxford, are

Herbert Emerson, B. M. Emerson, and John E. Jones. Mr. Dodge was a lover of a good horse and in his day owned many fine ones. While living in "Dodge Hollow" he built a race track on his farm, which on many occasions called together the sportsmen of that day to witness the strife between the owners of fast steppers. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Dodge lived with her daughter, Mrs. Gideon Lawton in McDonough, where she died in 1845. Children, all born in Oxford:

MARSHALL, married Abigail Lawton, and was a clothier. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and when dying expressed a wish to be buried in Oxford, his birthplace. He was buried in the cemetery a mile and a half west of Oxford on the old State road. His grave like many other soldiers of that war, is uncared for. The greater part of his life was spent in McDonough.

HARRY, married Mary Blackman, daughter of Elijah Blackman of Oxford; lived in McDonough for several years and then moved away, and all trace of him and his family has been lost.

POLLY, twin to Harry, married Gideon Lawton, and lived for several years in Oxford, and then moved to McDonough where they both died. Children: Thomas, Eliza, Harry, Lucinda, and Russell, born in Oxford; Almira, William, and Charles, who died in boyhood, born in McDonough. All went to Pennsylvania, excepting Eliza, who married Moses Emerson of McDonough, and Lucinda, who lived with her grandfather Dodge until she was fifteen. She married A. J. Moore of McDonough.

RUSSELL, married Sally Hamilton, conducted a tannery for several years in McDonough, and went to Steuben county and died in Addison.

MARTIN, married Betsey Barnes and lived and died in McDonough.

ALMIRA, married Charles Burlingame, a cousin, and moved to Willet, where they both lived and died.

IRA, married Almira Betts and lived in Oxford a few years, then went to Pennsylvania where his wife died. He went to Iowa and died there.

ALFRED, married Almira Bemas, whose father, Almon Bemas, kept a hotel below Oxford. They moved to Steuben county and died there.

ISRAEL, went to Steuben county, and there married Sally White. He died at Westfield, Pa.

CAPTAIN SOLOMON FENTON, born in Connecticut June 23, 1749, was a soldier during the war of the Revolution. He was wounded at the battle of Saratoga, where he had captured a British officer in person. He died in Oxford, December 25, 1831, aged 82 years. His wife was Sybil Snow, born September 19, 1749, and died September 29, 1824. They came to Oxford about the year 1816 to reside with their daughter, the wife of Ira B. McFarland.

JOHN TEN BROECK lived at an early day on the farm at South Oxford on which is now the Ten-Broeck-Warn cemetery. His children were: Jeremiah, John, Derrick, Mrs. Dan Loomis, Mrs. Amos Gray, and Maria and Ann, first and second wives of Jabez Robinson of South Oxford.

The mill-wheel has fallen to pieces, Ben Bolt,
The rafters have tumbled in,
And a quiet which crawls round the walls as you gaze
Has followed the olden din.—ENGLISH.

Peter Burghardt.

Peter Burghardt (Burgot) came to Oxford with his wife and eight children from Great Barrington, Mass., in 1792, and settled on the farm now owned by F. P. Newkirk. He removed at an early part of the nineteenth century to Allegany county and died in Kentucky while engaged in building bridges. He erected the first grist mill in this town on Hovey's creek, one and one half miles west of the village. His wife died at Warren, Penn. Two daughters died in Oxford, Mary, who married John Dodge, and left many descendants, and Sally, wife of Abijah Lobdell, Jr., who has only two descendants now living: Miss Helen M. Lobdell and Miss Augusta C. Godfrey of this village. Lucretia married (1) Selah Burlingame and moved to Illinois; married (2) —— Parsons.

The first death in this town was an infant daughter, Happy Leona, of Mr. Burghardt.

There were four sons, Moses, Gerritt, Peter and Abraham, and they all went to the western part of New York state, where their decendants are still living.

Mr. Burghardt was one of the first trustees of Oxford

Academy, also one of the first vestrymen of St. Paul's church. His son-in-law, Abijah Lobdell, Jr., was also one of the first vestrymen, and it was at his house the first Episcopal services were held. The prayer book then used is now in the vestry of St. Paul's church.

Mr. Burghardt was very strong in his belief in the Episcopal faith and having contributed to build a Presbyterian church in Great Barrington, he with other Dutch settlers, many of them wealthy, and nearly all Episcopalians, asked to have preaching in their own language on week days at their own expense. The Rev. Mr. Hopkins refused with the reply: "What, Dutch preaching in the meeting house? No, that shall never be." The Dutch resented the rebuff and stayed at home from church, which angered the minister into threatening the tithing men from the pulpit, and they entered a complaint with the magistrate. Peter Burghardt and his brother were among the offenders. The magistrate was obliged to fine them or commit them to the stocks, though this was against his will; and they were advised to go to the stocks as a quicker and surer means of victory, which they did, with Judge Woodbridge present as their friend and legal protector from further insults.

The name Burghardt was originally Borghghardt, then Burghardt, and Burgot. The descent of Misses Lobdell and Godfrey is:

I. Heindrick Borghghardt married Maria von Hoesen. Lived in Albany, N. Y. II. Conraed Borghghardt, married Gesie von Wir at Kinderhook, N. Y. III. Peter Burghardt, married Mary Church at Great Barrington, Mass. IV. Sally Burghardt married Abijah Lobdell, Jr., at Oxford, N. Y. V. Helen M. Lobdell. V. Sarah Lobdell married George W. Godfrey. VI. Augusta C. Godfrey.

As the laws are above magistrates, so are the magistrates above the people; and it may truly be said that the magistrate is a speaking law.—CICERO.

Town Meetings.

The first legal town meeting was held on the first Tuesday in April, 1794, at the house of General Benjamin Hovey, and from that time till the division of the town, meetings were held alternately in the eastern part one year and the next in Oxford village, so called, many years before it was incorporated as a village. The officers voted for received their nominations on the day of election; a caucus for electioneering purposes was then unknown. At this meeting Ephraim Fitch was elected supervisor and Elihu Murray town clerk. Peter Burghardt and John Blandon were elected fence viewers. It was "Voted the town to give three pounds bounty on each wolf kill'd in the Town in addition to what the County gives."

At the town meeting in 1795 it was "Voted the Town chuse their officers (Supervisor and Town clerk) by the Clerk's taking each man's name and who he votes for in writing."

In 1800, Anson Cary was elected supervisor, and Capt. Samuel Farnham, clerk. The following records are copied from the town book:

Voted, that James Phelps, Uri Tracy and John Holmes, be a committee for settling the lot commonly call'd the ministerial lot, and that said committee be allow'd for their services one dollar per day,

OATHS OF COMMISSIONERS OF EXCISE.

We, Ephraim Fitch, James Phelps and Anson Cary, commissioners of excise for the Town of Oxford in the County of Chenango, do Solemnly

Swear in the presence of Almighty God that we will not on any account or pretense whatsoever, grant any Licenses to any person within the said town of Oxford, for the purpose of keeping an Inn or tavern, but only in such case as appears to us absolutely necessary for the benefit of travelers; and that we will in all things while acting as commissioners of excise do our duty according to the best of our Judgement and abilities, without fear, favor or partiality according to LAW.

Signed, EPHRAIM FITCH,
JAMES PHELPS,
ANSON CARY.

Resolved at a board of commissioners of excise for the Town of Oxford, held on the 6th day of May, 1800, that Capt. Samuel Smith, Samuel Johnson, Benjamin Wilson, John Dibble, Solomon Kellogg, Jonathan Bush, and St. George Tolbud Perry, are suitable persons to be licensed to keep Inns or Taverns in the Town of Oxford, and that it was necessary to have taverns at the above places.

Signed, EPHRAIM FITCH,
JAMES PHELPS,
ANSON CARY.

The above is a true copy of the original.

S. FARNHAM, Clk.

At the town meeting in 1801, it was—

Voted, to accept a report of the committee appointed at the last Town meeting to settle the public lot with the following alterations, Viz,, that the Settlers now on the lot should have their Leases and pay five pr. cent. pr. annum; having the same rent free five years from the 1st day of January Last; and that those hereafter going on should have their lots at the same rate and that their interest should begin Jan'y 1st, 1802, and that Uri Tracy, James Phelps, and John Holmes be a committee for that purpose to give leases.

At the town meeting in 1802, it was—

Voted, that Hogs do not run at large, and that the annual Town meeting be held at the house of Elihu Murray next year.

Voted, that the widow Dibble be releas'd from paying the excise for tavern license for the last year.

Proceedings of election, 1807:

At the annual Election began and held in the Town of Oxford, in the County of Chenango, on Tuesday the twenty-eight day of April, 1807, and continued by adjournment from day to day for three days successively, including the 28th day of April.

We certify the following persons had the number of Votes for the offices set opposite their respective names as hereafter particularized:

(Viz.)

Morgan Lewis for Governor	169
Thomas Storm for Lieutenant	169
Daniel D. Thompson, Governor	140
John Broome, Lieutenant	140
Caleb Hyde, Senator	170
Cabel Sampson, Senator	138
William Floyd, Senator	123
Alexander Rice, Senator	119
Moss Kent, Senator	25
Daniel Tompkins, Governor	1

Solomon Pier, Reuben Bristol, Gurdon Hewitt, William McCalpin, Benjamin Yale, Inspectors of Election.

JOHN ADAMS, a worthy citizen of Oxford for many years, and who served with honor in the war of 1812, died August 29, 1862. He was a shoemaker by trade and also made shoe lasts in a little old shop that stood on the site of Rafferty's saloon on Fort Hill. His children were John T., who enlisted in Co. K, 10th N. Y. Cavalry, and was killed in an engagement near Stony Creek, Va., October 27, 1864; Drayton, who died in the West; Dwight, who enlisted in the 17th Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers serving through the war of the Rebellion; and a daughter, Mary.

FROM November 7 to 15, 1845, inclusive, 9,965 firkins of butter were cleared at the office of the canal collector in Oxford. At this date it would be impossible to secure a third of that number of firkins in the entire county. The shipment of milk has revolutionized the once great butter industry of Chenango county.

And see the rivers how they run
Through woods and meads, in shade and sun,
Sometimes swift, sometimes slow,—
A various journey to the deep,
Like human life to endless sleep!—Dyer.

Lyon Family.

David, Samuel and Thomas Lyon, brothers, came from Great Bend, Pa., in canoes in 1792 and settled upon Lyon brook, then called Can-na-wa-gon, which has since become familiar by reason of the high bridge built over it by the Ontario & Western Railway. The brothers purchased three miles square of land at one shilling per acre, and after meeting with various vicissitudes finally cleared the land, developed several fine farms, and erected grist and saw mills. During the winter of 1792-3 snow fell several feet deep and the men could not hunt, though game was plenty, and their provisions gave out. Samuel, on snow shoes, sought the cabin of the Bennetts and found a barrel of peas, which the latter had left on departing for their winter quarters at Great Bend. The peas sustained life until game could be procured. Many of the early settlers almost perished from want of food at times during the first few years.

Elizabeth Lyon, a sister, married Cornelius Jacobs in 1784, who was one of the body guard of General George Washington, and of whom mention is made in another article.

Thomas Lyon became a major, and led a regiment of State troops from this county in 1812. When they were

recruiting in this village and sending soldiers to defend the frontier, the old red house on Greene street, known as the Thurber homestead, razed to the ground in August, 1904, served for a short time as a barrack for the enlisted men. Young lads gratified their curiosity by going on the sly to look upon the raw recruits, and to see them arranged on the floor for sleeping. Those same young lads were present at the military funeral of Major Lyon held not long after, who was killed at Toronto.

Toward the close of April, 1813, General Dearborn, under whom Major Lyon served, crossed Lake Erie with seventeen hundred men with the intention of attacking York, now Toronto, and the chief depot of the British posts in the west. A landing was made before York on the 27th of the month under hot fire, but the Americans pushed on and the enemy were driven from their works. The Americans were still pressing towards the main works when a magazine of the fort containing a hundred barrels of powder, exploded, a plot of the British. Two hundred Americans were killed or wounded, among the mortally hurt being Major Lyon, who was carried on board the commodore's vessel and there died the death of a hero.

David Lyon was for many years in partnership with James A. Glover in the old stone blacksmith shop which stood east of the Congregational church on the site of the residence of Melvin Walker.

George R. Lyon, son of Samuel, learned the blacksmith trade of Mr. Glover, and in 1822 moved to Greene, where he began the iron business, which has since developed into the Lyon Iron Works, an important industry of that village.

A wild and broken landscape, spiked with firs,
Roughening the bleak horizon's northern edge.—WHITTIER.

Bennett Family.

Moses Bennett and sons came from Great Bend, Pa., in April, 1792, ascending the Susquehanna and Chenango rivers by canoe, there being no road or other means of conveyance. They saw but one house between Binghamton and Oxford, and that at Chenango Forks. They erected cabins and raised a crop that year on two miles square of land which they bought at one shilling per acre. After passing the winter in Great Bend they returned with their families the following spring. As there had been no mill erected they were obliged to break up their grain in a mortar, until Mr. Bennett had contrived a small hand mill, which supplied not only their wants, but was frequently resorted to by the pioneers near and far. There were no settlers between the Bennetts' and what was called the Castle, occupied by the Oneida Indians, two miles south of Norwich. The Indians were numerous throughout the valley at this time and had a favorite resort near the Halfway House. Mr. Bennett used to relate that one summer's day the chief returning to the Castle after a short absence found the camp in an uproar, caused by one of the tribe bringing in a keg of rum, which he had bartered for with a trader in Binghamton. Unable to control the drunken lot he hastened for assistance, soon returning with Mr. Bennett and his nine sons,and a few Indians who

had been following a hunt. A fight ensued in which fifty were killed or wounded, those who were sober enough fled to the forest. The rum was poured out on the ground and peace was soon established again in the camp.

James Bennett, the eldest son of Moses, enjoyed telling of those days when pathways through the forest could only be traced by means of marked trees. He visited Norwich when it was without a house, to find the trees swaying with pigeon nests, the remnant of a feathered encampment of the previous year, upon the present site of that village. On the 25th of November, 1858, he fell from a ladder and received injuries which proved fatal. Mr. Bennett was 85 years of age, and had resided nearly sixty years upon the same farm. Catherine, his wife, died April 2, 1847, aged 73.

James C. Bennett, son of James, born November 4, 1807, resided upon the old homestead till his decease, which occurred suddenly April 6, 1878, at the age of 70. He was twice married, his first wife, Catherine, died February 3, 1836, aged 21; Sarah A. Sherwood, his second wife, born in 1819 in Guilford, died September 15, 1901, in Norwich. Children:

Ann Augusta, married J. J. VanAllen.

Dealette, married Daniel E. Comstock; died suddenly June 7, 1905, in Norwich. Mr. Comstock died April 20, 1901, in Norwich.

Alice, married Charles L. Turner.

J. Howard Bennett, lived on the place for many years, then moved to Bainbridge, where he still resides.

Trumbull has painted him,—a face
Filled with a fine, old-fashioned grace,
Fresh-colored, frank, with ne'er a trace
Of troubled shaded.—Dobson.

Samuel Miles Hopkins.

Samuel Miles Hopkins was a son of Samuel Hopkins, a soldier in the war of the Revolution, who marched to the defense of New York in 1776.. He was descended from Stephen Hopkins of the Mayflower, whose great grandson wrote "Stephen Hopkins," with a weak hand but a stout heart, beneath the Declaration of Independence, while the signer's brother was Ezekiel Hopkins, the first Admiral of the American Navy, and the equal in rank with Washington himself.

Samuel Miles Hopkins was born May 9, 1772, at Salem, in Waterbury, Ct.; died October 8, 1837, at Geneva, N. Y.; married October 5, 1800, Sarah Elizabeth Rogers of New York city, born February 1, 1778; died December 17, 1866.

In 1784 Samuel Miles Hopkins went to live in the family of his uncle, Dr. Lemuel Hopkins of Hartford, where he laid the foundation of a classical knowledge. On commencement day, 1787, he entered the Sophomore class of Yale college. For a year his classical books had been neglected, and he compassed in six weeks, without an instructor, the usual reading of a year in the classics of the schools. He passed three years at New Haven. He was not in good favor with the faculty, and took no pains to conciliate their good will. They gave him one of the three English orations for commencement, which were then re-

puted the highest appointments. He refused to attend, and they refused him his degree until thirty years later, when they conferred on him the degree of Doctors of Laws.

In 1791 having resolved on the profession of law, he entered the office of Judge Reeve in Litchfield, Ct., whose law school contained more than twenty pupils. In March, 1793, when he had only studied about eighteen months, he was proffered an examination for admission by the gentleman of the bar. This was in violation of a general rule. Immediately after his admission to the bar he had the smallpox. Early in April accompanied by his father, Mr. Hopkins went on a ride across the Housatonic valley of Connecticut and Dutchess county to Poughkeepsie, where he put himself under the tuition of Chancellor Kent and Jacob Radcliffe. His object was to acquire a knowledge of the practice of the New York courts, which then was thought no small art and mystery. It was the sole business of a three years' clerkship, and he acquired it in eighteen days, by studying sixteen hours out of the twenty-four and reciting two in the evening. He kept the life in him by now and then running a mile or two up a hill. Embarking on a sloop he with four New England young men went to New York city, where he had letters of introduction to Judge Hobart, James Watson and Colonel Aaron Burr. Thelatter made the motion, and when the Court sought to exclude them by an *ex post facto* rule, Burr succeeded in exempting them from its operations. Hopkins passed a most splendid examination and his license was dated on May 9, 1793, the day he was 21 years old. In a sketch of the life of Mr. Hopkins written by himself in 1832, he states:

I was received with infinite kindness by the gentlemen to whom I had letters. I told them I could no longer be a burden to my father, and that I desired them to recommend me to a new country, where I could most certainly earn $52 in the first year, since I could live for $1 per week. They recommended Tioga, and gave me letters, and I hastened home. My father was

at Hartford, as a member of the Legislature. My mother searched the till of his chest and found, I think, $10, or perhaps $10.25. With that and with a valise which contained half a dozen shirts, a set of Blackstone, a skin of parchment bought at New York, and some black seals, and on the horse Phœnix, which my father had raised for me, and which Phœnix was the first in official order of all my line of Phœnixes, I bade adieu to my mother and dear brothers and sisters and took the road to an unexplored and unknown wilderness. What a moment for my mother—what a moment for me ! One hundred and ten miles west from Catskill, through a country almost all very new, brought me to the village of Oxford, and to the house of Benjamin Hovey, the founder of it, and who about eighteen months before had cut the first tree to clear the ground where this village stood. Here, too, I found Uri Tracy (of the class in college two years older than myself), and whom after nearly forty years I still count among the most valued of my friends.

I settled at Oxford as a lawyer. My first law-draft I made by writing on the head of a barrel, under a roof, made of poles only, and in the rain, which I partially kept from spattering my paper by a broad brimmed hat. In such a village as this, the first framed building was an academy of two stories, and Mr. Tracy was the teacher. No Yankee without the means of education! Judge Hobart, my friend and patron, was to hold the circuit in June at Owego; and his kind notice of me was an excellent introduction to the county. The first case I ever tried was in defending a man indicted for forgery, which was death, and on which the attorney general of the State in person supported the prosecution. Judge Hobart sustained the objection I took, and the prisoner was acquitted. And in this country I rode 80 miles to Newton (Elmira) to attend a Court of Common Pleas in my own county, and was too happy to win a jury cause and get a fee of $8, perhaps the most gratifying I ever received. Sometimes I rode all day in the rain, forded the swift flowing Chenango in water up to my horse's back, found my whole library and stationary wet by the operation and lost my way in returning up the river, the path—not road—being too blind to follow. In attempting to follow the Nanticoke in a freshet I was obliged to go in a canoe and forcing Phœnix into the river, to lead him swimming while the ferryman directed the canoe. But how wonderful is instinct! The horse had never swam before, yet when he felt the force of the torrent, he breasted the stream, and dreading to be swept downwards he carried the whole of us up stream so far above the landing place, that the horse became entangled in floating tree tops and that I came near losing him. At another time I rode west to Cincinnatus, where at 18 miles was a house, north 18 miles farther off was another house, but in utter darkness at night I lost my way and passed the night in one of the most incessant, steady, pouring rains I ever knew. I visited Onondaga when but two white families were in the "hollow," and attempted a rude estimate of the weight of the water of the salt spring, when not as many as a dozen of the kettles were in ope-

ration or ever had been. My name is first on the roll of attorneys in Cayuga.

I became convinced that I could grow up in the country and become as rich as I wished. Col. Burr had, almost by force, made me receive a library of choice law books, which he selected, saying that "I might settle it in my will," if I pleased. But Mr. Watson suggested the idea of a removal to New York for the sake of the society of able men, of mental improvement, and of professional advancement. He afterwards invited me to his house, imported for me about $1500 of law books, the foundation of my present law library. He loaned me whatever money I had occasion for, and left me to pay it (as I did) years after, from the avails of my professional business.

I went to New York in the fall or winter of 1794 and took up my lodgings in the princely and hospitable house of Mr. Watson, quitting with a good deal of regret my Oxford friends, my village half acre and charming new office, and taking Phœnix back to my father. The winter I employed in very intense study for counsel's examination, But in the course of that time Mr. Watson began to propose to me the project, which occupied my time afterwards for two years in Virginia and two in Europe engaged in selling Virginia lands, which ended in a complete failure.

Mr. Hopkins married in 1800 and rented a house in New York city at $1000 a year. At that time he had an office full of clerks, and lived in a style sufficiently though not exceedingly elegant, and his connections in the best rank of society brought him public influence and popularity. Later a rapidly increasing family made his expenses enormous and a check in business cramped his finances. He saw he must reduce his living and leave the city, which he did though it was with difficulty that he met all his engagements. In 1810 he purchased jointly with his brother-in-law, B. W. Rogers, a share in two tracks of land which had been reserved by the Indians, or their agents, at Mt. Morris, and the Leicester tract on the Genesee river in western New York. He bought merino sheep and went to farming. In 1811 he removed to Geneseo and in 1813-14 was a member of the XIIIth Congress. In August, 1814, he laid out the village of Moscow on a plain which far and wide was covered with a young growth of oak and hickory. Here he spent ten years, but the adventure failed and involved him in debt, and he had no other resource but to

sell everything at an immense sacrifice and trace his course to Albany to resume the practice of law in the spring of 1822. Here he made every previous arrangement, having been a member of the Senate during the winter. He never made money by his profession, for he always took the cases of the poor and helpless. His home was an asylum for dependent relatives—young people who were brought there to be educated, or older ones who were given positions in the household, and alse of distressed strangers, and foreigners, such as exiled Greeks and Poles.

The great chief Red Jacket, the eloquent orator, was a frequent visitor at his "Western home." On a winter evening at Albany a silent figure would glide in, and after a few moments would as silently steal away; this was Aaron Burr, despised by every one, but tolerated and kindly treated by Mr. Hopkins, because of benefits received from him when he was a struggling young lawyer. Daniel Webster, and the Chancellors and Chief Justices; LaFayette, on his second visit to America, and the great Sir John Franklin, were friends and callers at the Hopkins home.

In 1832 Mr. Hopkins and family removed to Geneva where after five years he sank peacefully at rest "in the sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection."

Mr. Hopkins was a fine figure of a man, six feet high, and perfectly formed for strength and activity. He had soft brown hair with light blue eyes. He ante-dated the era of beards, and always shaved his face carefully. When in Paris he was called "le Phœbus Americain."

The children of Samuel Miles and Sarah Elizabeth (Rogers) Hopkins were:

Mary Elizabeth, born April 13, 1802; died February 28, 1857; married William Gordon Ver Planck.

William Rogers, born January 2, 1805; died November 12, 1876.

Julia Anne, born February 22, 1807; died March 5, 1849; married William E. Sill.

Hester Rogers, born November 5, 1808; died October 8, 1845; married Charles A. Rose.

Samuel Miles, D. D., born August 8, 1813, for many years Professor in the Auburn Theological Seminary.

Woolsey Rogers, born July 14, 1815, now resides at Stamford, Ct.

Sarah Elizabeth, born August 20, 1818; married John M. Bradford.

BALLOON ASCENSION.—Saturday, June 28, 1862, Prof. H. Squires made the first balloon ascension in this village. A large number of people witnessed the then novel exhibition, while the Norwich and Oxford Bands contributed much to the pleasure of the day. At 4. p. m., Prof. Squires took leave of his terrestial audience in front of the Exchange block, rising rapidly and gradually moving up the river for a mile or more, when the balloon took a south-easterly course, having been visible more than an hour, and sank out of sight in Guilford, about six miles distant. Previous to the ascension a company of fantastics made an amusing appearance on the streets.

The whole number of inhabitants of the town of Oxford in September, 1830, according to the census taken by Anson Mead, was 2,041.

The hungry Judges soon the sentence sign,
And wretches hang that Jurymen may dine.—Pope.

Anson Cary.

Anson Cary came from Windham, Ct., to Union, Broome county, where he resided for a short time, and then departed for Oxford in 1792. He came up the Susquehanna and Chenango rivers in a canoe paddled by an Indian named Seth, and took up the lands now owned by the Charles A. Bennett estate and John Cary. Mr. Cary was a Revolutionary pensioner, having entered the army at the age of 16 and served in three campaigns of the war. He was a very large and obese man, and was the first blacksmith to locate in Oxford. He worked at his trade and carried on his farm a great many years, and was also famous as a pettifogger before Justice's courts. He held the office of justice of peace, was appointed sheriff of the county March 1, 1805, and for a considerable time one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. He died May 3, 1842, aged 80. He married March 4, 1784, Miss Hannah Carew, who died July 9, 1842, aged 78. Children:

Horatio, born March 27, 1775; died February 10, 1855, in Lockport, N. Y. Married Betsey Rhodes.

Minerva, born October 15, 1778; died May 23, 1859, in Wisconsin. Married Amos A. Franklin.

Harriet, born July 29, 1789; died on the old homestead, August 9, 1863. Married Adolphus B. Bennett 2d.

George A., born May 8, 1793; died suddenly April 21, 1869; married (1) Sarah Wattles of Oxford, died June 18, 1821; married (2) Adaline Crandall, died suddenly October 26, 1882. Child by first wife: Sarah, married William H. Mason of Norwich.

Palmer C., born March 31, 1798; died May 13, 1875; married Rowena Osgood. Children: Anson, died January 28, 1877, aged 50; married Hannah Franklin. Lucy, died unmarried. Rowena, married Theodore Waters of North Norwich. Jane, married Charles Clark. Frances, married January 8, 1856, Francis L. Cagwin of Joliet, Wis.

Zalmon S., born August 31, 1800; died August 23, 1854; married Pamelia Randall of Connecticut. Mr. Cary when but three years old set fire to his father's unfinished residence, which was destroyed. He lived and died on a portion of the old homestead, now occupied by his son John R. Children: Harriet, married Elijah A. Bradley of Macon, Ga. Sarah Elizabeth, married February 22, 1857, Rev. Stephen L. Roripaugh. Helen, married James Wiswell. Mary, died unmarried. John R., married Mrs. Josephine (Converse) Williams and has one son, Robert.

Hannah, born June 17, 1802; died October 8, 1855, the day set for her marriage.

Albert G., born July 20, 1807; died suddenly July 26, 1881; married Melissa Mathewson. Studied medicine with Drs. Perez Packer and William G. Sands. Practiced in several localities, but a deformity of his lower limbs prevented him from getting around with ease. Child: George, died in early manhood.

On the 12th of October, 1836, snow fell to the depth of over two feet in this vicinity.

None but himself can be his parallel.—THEOBALD.

Jonathan Baldwin.

Prominent among the first settlers was Jonathan Baldwin, born in Egremont, Mass., February 11, 1765, who came on foot, accompanied by Theodore Burr, with his axe upon his shoulder by the Catskill turnpike in the spring of 1793. These young men were architects, millwrights and bridge builders in search of a location and employment. Mr. Baldwin took up several acres on the site of the village, extending from State street as far as the residence of Mrs. Richard Youngs on Clinton street and in the rear enclosing the old cemetery, a gift from him to the village. He paid for the land from such wages as five dollars per month.

Having made a small clearing and put in some wheat, they returned to Massachusetts in the fall, by way of Utica. Their route was a narrow path through the boundless forest indicated only by marked trees. At intervals there were attached to trees small covered boxes for mail. Travelers examined these for letters to go their way and delivered them.

On the 3d of March, 1794, Mr. Baldwin married Miss Parthenia Stanford of Duxbury, Mass., and soon after returned to Oxford and built the house now owned and occupied by Francis G. Clarke, leaving his wife until the road could be made so that a horse could make the passage. While thus engaged he boarded with Peter Burghardt. The next fall his wife came in company with Solomon Dodge. In July, 1796, Mr. Baldwin moved his wife

and infant daughter, Miriamne, into the house he had erected. It was minus windows and doors, there his son Harvey was born the next day.

Mrs. Baldwin brought from Massachusetts a mitten full of apple, currant and rose seeds, which she planted, aided by a nephew, David Baldwin, who cleared away the under brush. She said she never should eat the fruit from trees of her own planting; but lived to see those same apple trees bear thirty bushels each of wholesome fruit.

Mr. Baldwin laid the foundation of the large building, now the St. James hotel, and prepared window frames, sash and doors for building a large hotel; but when the interests of Oxford were sacrificed, and the county seat located at Norwich, he left the work unfinished. Although at times profane, which gave him the name of "Deacon," he was an honest man.

He donated half the land for LaFayette square, now LaFayette park, and as one of the first trustees of Oxford Academy, gave freely of time and money to advance the interests of that institution. He was the builder of many of the first houses, together with the first school house on the west side of the river, and the second river bridge.

No early name is more prominent than Jonathan Baldwin's; the benefactor of the poor, a sterling character, retaining his intellectual faculties unimpaired until his death at the age of 82, which occurred July 2, 1845. The community at large mourned his loss. Mrs. Baldwin died April 21, 1848, aged 77. Their children were:

Miriamne, born January 15, 1793; married October 26, 1817, Peleg B. Folger, a shoemaker, from Hudson, who came here soon after the war of 1812, and died February 5, 1857, aged 65. Mrs. Folger died January 25, 1881, aged 84. Children: Parthenia A., died April 4, 1890, at

Binghamton; unmarried. William, married Melissa Gray of Scranton. Eben, married Lucy Hall. John, married Elizabeth Hall. Hannah, married Dr. S. F. McFarland. Mary, married William Benedict.

James Harvey, born July 2, 1796; married Elizabeth Shaffer of Lewisburg, Pa., and died in Pennsylvania, August 11, 1832, while engaged in bridge building. Children: Jonathan, Harvey, Maria, Jane and Cordelia.

Sophia, born June 22, 1800; married Frederick Greene.

Nancy, born January 13, 1801, died in infancy.

Happylone, born July 26, 1802, died unmarried January 12, 1833.

Louisa, born March 24, 1804, died unmarried November 10, 1883, aged 79.

Thomas, born July 4, 1805, died September 25, 1875; married Rebecca Buckly, who died suddenly January 11, 1875. He lived and died on the farm now owned by his daughters, Mary L., wife of Charles A. Bennett, and F. Adalaide Baldwin.

Charles, born July 23, 1807, died unmarried December 8, 1849.

Betsey M., born March 25, 1809, died unmarried November 2, 1899, aged 90.

Samuel, born in March, 1811, married Jane Hagaman of Greene; died at Corning, in 1852. Children: Ann, James, died in army; Jane, Kate.

John, born November 6, 1813, died unmarried May, 1895.

Eleazer Smith, a patriot of the Revolution and also engaged in the French war, was among the early settlers of Oxford. He died in Greene December 8, 1822, aged 75.

One who journeying
Along a way he knows not, having crossed
A place of drear extent.—BRYANT.

Joseph Dickinson.

Joseph Dickinson born in 1774 in Connecticut; died April 19, 1862, in Oxford; married November 2, 1797, Mary Rowland of Connecticut; born about 1776; died January 15, 1863, in Oxford.

Mr. Dickinson, at the age of 19, John Gott and another man, whose name cannot be recalled, came from Connecticut in 1793. The three had a horse and one would ride a distance and hitch, then another would take his turn and so on to their journey's end. They crossed the Hudson at Albany and passed through the Mohawk valley to Utica, where there were but two log houses and a log barn. Continuing their journey to Richfield Springs by Indian trail they cleared the leaves from a large sulphur spring and drank the strong water. The deer had a hard beaten path where they had come to drink from the same spring. From Richfield Springs through New Berlin to Thomas Root's in Oxford they were guided only by marked trees, as there were no roads, only paths and "blazed" trees. The houses, or log cabins, were long distances apart and often they found it very difficult to find anything to eat. The only articles you could get one cent of money for were potash and salts. The nearest grist mills were at Sidney and Chenango Forks, and Mr. Dickinson often would tie a bag of corn or wheat on the back of a horse, and going ahead in the path lead the animal to mill, often being absent three days. On one occasion he returned late at night and found his children had gone to bed crying with hunger. Mrs. Dickinson hastily prepared a meal from the

grist and all were soon enjoying a feast that was remembered to the end of their days. Sometimes butter was made in a wooden box rocked back and forth by hand, and when fine starch was required it was prepared from grated potatoes. There were no doctors within a long distance and Mr. Dickinson helped set a number of broken bones for his neighbors, using splints by cutting a small basswood tree, which was very soft. Mr. Dickinson, one of the Tracys and Frederick Hopkins were all churchmen before they came to Oxford, and would meet once in two or three weeks and read the service of the Episcopal church. After a time others joined with them and in the course of a few years regular services were held in the village. Children:

Joseph, Jr., born October 4, 1798; died September 1, 1845; married September 17, 1739, Roxy Dodge. Child: Roxy.

Mary, born June 25, 1800; died February 3, 1884; married January 25, 1820, Alison Hopkins.

Lydia Ann, born September 1, 1802; died July 18, 1870; married January 6, 1830, Andrew Mead.

Harriet, born January 20, 1806; married December 21, 1823, Zelotes Blinn. Had eleven children.

Elisha, born May 14, 1808; died April 26, 1809.

Hannah, born March 4, 1810; died March 23, 1884. Unmarried.

Elisha, 2d, born April 6, 1812; died November 3, 1889; married November 26, 1835, Phila Mowry. Children: Lydia E., married Thomas Wheeler. Almira, died in infancy. ——, daughter, died in infancy.

David, born June 27, 1815; died September 1881; married June 26, 1840, Mary M. Kinney. Children: Harriet, born in infancy; Charles and Julia.

He was not of an age, but for all time.—Ben Jonson

John Buckley.

John Bulkley, now spelled Buckley, was born in Connecticut and came to Oxford in 1795, settling in the western part of the town upon a farm which he purchased and lived upon till his death. In the winter months he worked at his trade, a wheelwright, and during the summer months engaged in farming. He married Hannah Decker of German descent, by whom he had seven children: Cynthia, married Angus Bartle; Jacob, Hannah, married Uri Bartle; Peter, married Ruth Ann Bartle; Polly, married David H. Bixby; Rebecca, married Thomas Baldwin; Sally Ann, married Eliakim Bixby.

Jacob Buckley, born in 1804, married Clarinda, daughter of Stephen Hastings of Smithville, and died October 15, 1884, on the old homestead. He learned the trade of millright and owned and operated sawmills in Oxford and Smithville. Mrs. Buckley died January 8, 1895, aged 88 years. Children: Sarah Jane, died in infancy; Marion, married Charles Stratton; died November 9, 1901; William P.; Almeda, married John P. Davis; A. Anvernett, married Henry D. Willcox, died January 14, 1904; Mary A., married James Warn.

William P. Buckley, born October 2, 1838, died August 22, 1905. He was educated at Oxford Academy. He taught school for several terms and then took up the work

of a carpenter and joiner, which he learned thoroughly, becoming one of the best of mechanics. In later years his reputation as a contractor and builder extended throughout the surrounding country, as is shown by the many fine residences and public buildings he had put up in Oxford and adjoining towns. For seven years he was captain in the State militia. Mr. Buckley married in 1865, Ruth A., daughter of Uri and Hannah (Buckley) Bartle, who died August 29, 1892. One son, J. Burr, was born to them. Mr. Buckley's second wife was Mrs. Helen (Lewis) Brown, widow of Smith Brown of Preston, whom he married December 26, 1894.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT TAYLOR.—President Zachary Taylor died at Washington, July 9, 1850. On the receipt of the news in Oxford the several church bells were tolled for an hour. On the day of the funeral a cannon was fired half-hourly during the day, and the bells again tolled for an hour and places of business closed.

IN 1822 the business of the county increased and substantial signs of prosperity and wealth appeared on every hand. The farming interest became important and the Gazette in July announced that "ten thousand dollars had been expended by three merchants of this village for black salts within two months preceeding."

AN EARTHQUAKE.—Shortly after 11 o'clock a. m., October 20, 1870, two distinct shocks of an earthquake were felt in this village. The shock lasted nearly a minute, and people hurriedly vacated their buildings, fearing they were about to fall.

From yon blue heaven above us bent,
The grand old gardener and his wife
Smile at the claims of long descent.
—TENNYSON.

Eber Williams

Eber Williams was born November 6, 1776, and married Martha Bennett November 7, 1799, at Foster, R. I., which town they left October 16, 1808, moving to Warren, now Columbia, N. Y. After remaining there three years they came to Oxford and settled in the dense woods on the farm now owned by Mason Whipple, and better known as the Stephen Weeks farm. In 1814 Mr. Williams sold to Philo Pier, and removed to a farm in Columbus, this county; remaining there three years he returned to Oxford and went on the farm he originally owned, occupying it till his death.

Mr. Williams was fifth in descent from Roger Williams, who settled Rhode Island in 1636. The line of succession being: Roger, Daniel, Joseph, Benoni, John, and Eber. His father was born December 27, 1742, and died in August, 1843. His mother was a sister of Stephen Hopkins, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and his wife was a descendant from the Royal house of Tudor, England.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams died on the same day, October 3, 1867, aged 91 and 87 respectively, and were buried in the same grave.

Their children were:

Daniel B., born September 3, 1800; lived for many years at Cincinnatus, where he died, May 28, 1889.

Polly, born April 7, 1803, married Vinson Loomis, and died in Smithville.

Sally, born June 6, 1809, married Isaac Wright, and died in Wisconsin.

John A., born May 28, 1813, lived at Beloit, Wis.

Martha C., born July 10, 1815, married Wilson J. Case; moved to Spring Valley, Wis.

Julia A., born October 25, 1817, married Stephen Weeks, and died on the homestead farm July 4, 1876.

In the fall of 1828 a number of Mr. Williams' neighbors had a quantity of butter on hand, but found no buyers in Oxford. They urged Mr. Williams to take it at ten cents a pound, or they would pay him four dollars per hundred for selling it for them. Mr. William consented, and sent his son Daniel to Rhode Island with the butter. He started November 28, with a yoke of oxen and a pair of horses for a team, with a long-reached, high-boxed wagon, and thirty hundred pounds of butter, exclusive of thirty heavy firkins for packages and some other loading, making in all about thirty-five hundred pounds. Daniel walked beside the team and was fourteen days on the road, making about 260 miles. He had a common-sized log chain to fasten a wheel in going down the steep hills. When descending the eastern declivity of the Catskills, he chained one wheel as usual, but, it occurring to him that it might not hold, fastened another wheel with a strong rope, and had gone but a short distance when the chain broke, but, luckily, the rope held and he descended in safety. With the assistance of relatives in Rhode Island Daniel sold the butter and the oxen. During the month of January he started for home, the weather

remaining warm till he crossed the Connecticut river, when it became intensely cold, and, on reaching the Hudson river, found he could not cross on account of the floating ice. Learning that the river was open at Troy, he drove to that city, reaching the landing just after the last boat for the day had crossed. He then went to Lansingburg, crossed on the bridge, passed through Schenectady, striking the Albany turnpike at Post's Tavern, and stopped a few days with relatives in Herkimer. From there he came home, having made a trip in mid-winter of about 600 miles, a hazardous undertaking for those days.

WHAT THEY ADVERTISED.—In April, 1819, Samuel Farnham advertised "An assortment of choice Liquors and Groceries, suitable for the sick as well as those in health." John Tracy, P. M., advertised a list of letters in post office. Ep. Miller, president of the board of village trustees, called a meeting of that board, to "Meet on the 1st Tuesday of May at 10 A. M." L. Sherwood & Co., had "Just received from New York a great variety of goods suitable for the season." Ransom Rathbone had "For sale, a large quantity of Men's and Boys' Knapt, Merino and Wool hats, which he will sell as low as can be purchased at any hat factory in the county." The notice by one of the citizens offering "A smart, active, healthy negro" for sale, evinced that the sable cloud of slavery yet hung over the State.

The population of Oxford in 1855 was town, 1,900; village, 1,218—total 3,118.

"Yankee Doodle, twist the cat—
Buttermilk and brandy;
Guess I'll bet my Sunday hat
They'll find I'm a boy quite handy."

Josiah Hackett.

Thus sang Josiah Hackett as he entered the village on the 10th of July, 1798, a beautiful summer afternoon with a touch of rain in the wind. He was a man of forty years, dressed in short breeches, long stockings with the accompaning shoebuckles, and carried a musket over his shoulder, which he termed "The Bloodsucker." Approaching a humble abode, whose friendly door stood open and from which the housewife looked forth, he addressed her as follows:

"Madame, I'm a soldier, a shoemaker, and a traveler, seeking a place of shelter until I can make arrangements to locate in this section of God's country. I've been to the inn, but, fags and catnip! their rooms are taken for the night, and the landlord said he couldn't lodge another person nohow. Can you lodge me till morning?"

"Yes," was the smiling reply; "I think we can make room for you, though my husband, Mr. Hovey, is not at home just at present. He is at the Academy, where Justice Kent, Esq., is holding court. But you look tired, come in and wait. He will be here soon."

"Thank ye, ma'am, I am that tired that if I was carried to the highest court of Juncture I couldn't make a move to resist."

He was ushered into the kitchen, whose floor of rough boards was cleanly swept and the huge stone fireplace

was apparently ready for the preparation of the evening meal. On the mantle over the fireplace stood a candlestick, a sausage stuffer, a spice mill, and a candle mold. By the side of the fireplace hung a smoke-blackened almanac, and by the hearth stood the high-backed settle, a sheltered seat for the long winter evenings. Within a short time Gen. Hovey appeared and soon the two were busily engaged in conversation. In answer to a question in regard to himself, Josiah replied:

"I am from Lyme, Conn., where I was born in 1758. When the alarm that preceded the battle of Bunker Hill spread through the country, I took my musket, which I call 'The Bloodsucker,' and started for the scene of conflict, where we were busier than seven bumblebees in a punkin blow. Since then my musket goes where I go. She's a quick-witted jade, but she's trusty and true."

"What is your business here?" asked Gen. Hovey.

"I am a shoemaker, and want to locate in this new country, and was told you were a land agent. I made inquiries at the inn for lodgings, but could not get in. 'Rabbit ye, an' be darn'd,' says I, and moved along."

"No, they have now more than they can accommodate," replied Gen. Hovey. "Hon. James Kent, Esq., one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of judicature of the State, held Circuit Court here to-day, the first in the history of our youthful county."

"Oh, by the lurry and living jingo! had I known that court was in session I might have come earlier, as I would liked to have heard the proceedings," said Josiah, as he took a pipe and tobacco from his pocket.

"They were not interesting, as there was no business to transact at this sitting. It was a mere matter of form, you know. But Justice Kent is a keen man, and I predict that he will at least be Chancellor some day."

"Oh, well, then I haven't lost a nation sight of jiggermarees, if there was no business before the court."

"No," replied the General, "but as to your business here. You are a shoemaker, you say, and we need a man here of that trade as much as any other. The community is growing, and you'll get a good living."

"Fags and catnip! I'm not only a shoemaker, but a patriot also, as 'The Bloodsucker,' my trusty musket which has never missed fire, can testify. I come to this country to earn a living for myself, wife, and little one, and I'll be soused in a butter tub if I don't do it. I also came for game, and they who know me best say I'm a good marksman. Uts, bobs, and butakins, but that won't do for me to say."

"And you are a patriot?"

"Yes. I saw a wonderation sight of fighting, but more about that some other time. Last fall my health was so poor that I thought I'd have to lie down in the graveyard and draw the green coverlet over my poor old body for the long sleep. I couldn't set in meeting, or scarcely lie in bed. A doctor told me I was afflicted with a complaint of the lungs, and that I had better move on west when summer came, or my flesh would waste and I would grow weaker and bowed down. 'All right,' says I, 'I insign to see what your advice is good for if it costs me my fireball colt!'"

"You appear quite rugged now."

"Yes, I have been on the way several weeks and got rid of a flamation wheezing and difficulty in breathing. Ods, bodkins, but I like this new country, and will locate here, or a few miles out. 'Drather be out of the hamlet, where I feel all over goose pimples, and where I'll have a better chance at game that abounds in this section. When 'The Bloodsucker' gets a fair chance at any of it, it will

find its gizzard ripp'd out as quick as a pig can crack a walnut."

"Well, we can locate you any where you choose. Let me see, what did I understand your name is——"

"Josiah Hackett, Si for short. A soldier, a shoemaker, and now a traveler. I love my country, and rabbit ye, the day of its birth, the glorious Fourth, whose anniversary was but last week, is the day of days for me. It is my solemn wish, and may the great and living Father grant it, that the hour that ends my life may come upon the Fourth of July."

"That is an odd wish. But you are yet in the prime of life and undoubtedly have many years yet before you."

"That is very true, but I shall always have that desire, for to me it is a sacred day."

It was now the supper hour, and Mrs. Hovey called them in from the rear of the dwelling where they had been sitting. On the following morning arrangements were made by which Josiah located near the "Desserts," in the south part of the town, and it was he that gave the name to that section.

On July 4th, 1845, forty-seven years later, Luman Fish entered C. F. T. Locke's store and said:

"Well, Locke, 'Uncle Si's' got his wish at last."

"Do you mean old Si Hackett?" inquired Mr. Locke, as he proceeded to tie up a pound of tea he had been weighing.

"Yes; you know he has always wished to die on the Fourth of July, and to-day the end came. We'll never see 'Uncle Si,' with 'The Bloodsucker' over his shoulder, again."

"Well, well," said Mr. Locke, as he stepped in front of

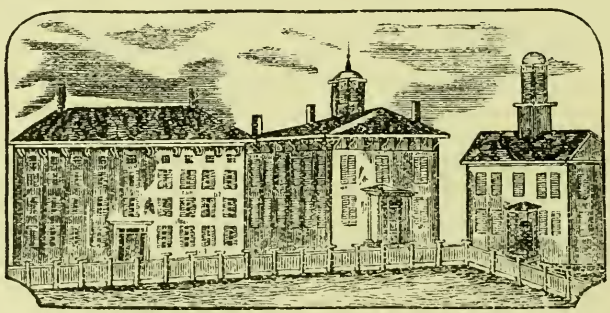
the counter. We'll miss him and his musket. He was always firing a salute on Independence day."

"Yes," was the reply, "and a better marksman I never saw. He came here when the town was new and when there was plenty of game. He used to say his musket was a quick-witted jade, but trusty and true."

"That's so," replied Locke. He was a great hunter, and they say he fought bravely in the Revolution."

"Yes, and he was that patriotic that to this day he could hardly bare to talk to an Englishman. And another thing, we'll miss his singing 'Yankee Doodle' on all occasions."

"Well, if St. Peter hears him singing as he approaches, he'll be so astonished that Si will dodge in the gates of heaven without the countersign."



OLD WOOD CUT—Showing Academy, Ladies' and Gentlemen's Board-Halls. The present school building occupies the site of the old academy, which was taken down and re-erected in the Lackawanna railroad yard for a store house; the ladies hall (formerly the fourth academy building standing next to the Baptist parsonage) was again removed to Greene-st., and is now a residence. The gentlemen's hall (now Morton flats) alone occupies the site of what once was the scene of a flourishing boarding school.

That best portion of a good man's life,
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love.
—WORDSWORTH.

William Gile.

Deacon William Gile, who kept a clothing store on the east side of the river, owned and occupied the house opposite the Congregational church, so long occupied in later years by Cyrus M. Brown, the hatter. Mr. Gile was attentive to his business, never leaving it for any purpose outside of it, except for such things as he thought the welfare of the Presbyterian church demanded. Of his earnings he was a liberal giver, both to the church of his choice and to such benevolent and charitable purposes as he thought deserving. For several years it was his practice to set apart the net proceeds of one day's sales in each week for better purposes, and the larger the amount of the sales the better he was pleased. About the year 1829 the Presbytery, to which the church in Oxford belonged, sent him as a delegate to the general synod which met in Philadelphia. For several years he was superintendent of the Sunday school, taught a Bible class, and was the leader in all church work.

Mr. Gile was not a politician, as the term is generally applied, but always voted for those he thought the best men, regardless of party; a strictly temperance man, and bitterly opposed to slavery. On the disruption of the old colonization society and the organization of the abolition-

ist party he became one of the first abolitionists in Oxford, and from that time on always voted that ticket when there was one in the field.

Deacon Gile was born in Providence, R. I., and moved to Oxford about the year 1808. A few years later he married Ann, daughter of Capt. Abram Stephens, at that time owner of the property in Preston, known far and near as the "Green Meadow farm." Mr. Gile resided in this village until the year 1818, when he disposed of his property and with his family emigrated to Ohio, moving in a wagon to Olean Point on the Allegheny river. Here he built a flat bottomed boat, or ark, and floated down the stream to Gallipolis, Ohio, remaining there seven years. Epidemics and fevers were so common in that country that the entire family were sick all of one season, and, becoming discouraged, he determined to leave. In the meantime the title to his property in Oxford had reverted to him, and he with his family returned, moved into the old home on Fort Hill, remaining until about 1839, when he again sold out and went to Steuben county. From there he moved to Wisconsin, where his wife died. He then resided with his children, spending a portion of his time with Joshua in Iowa, Gordon in Wisconsin, and Caroline, his youngest daughter, in Hannibal, Mo., where he died of cholera in 1876. He died as he had lived, a firm believer in the principles and faith of the Presbyterian church, in mind and body as vigorous as at the age of 40; and respected by all who knew him. His children, beside those already mentioned, were Margaret, wife of Charles N. Shumway, who died October 20, 1846, aged 31; John, Ruloff, and William S., who in 1888 was Commissioner of Fisheries for Kansas, with residence at Venango.

O youngsters! the elderly man has his enviable memories, and not the least of them is the memory of a long journey in mid-spring or autumn on the outside of a stage coach.—GEORGE ELIOT.

Early Traveling and Mail Routes.

Traveling by land was for a few years limited and hazardous, so that travel by boat was the more popular, although canoes were perilous. Transportation was almost wholly done by water, and in the winter merchandise was drawn on rude sledges. As horses multiplied women rode with as much ease as men. Young girls rode on side saddles, while older women rode behind men on pillions, padded cushions which had a sort of platform stirrup.

The first roads were called "trodden paths," narrow worn lines, scarce two feet wide, trodden over pine needles and fallen leaves among the tree trunks by the feet of the red men as they walked stealthily in Indian file through the great forest. Later these paths were deepened and worn bare by the coarse and heavy footwear of the pioneers, others were formed by the slow tread of domestic cattle as they wound around the hillside to pasture or drinking place. Then a scarcely broader bridle-path for horses, with blazed trees as guide posts, widened slowly to traveled roads and uneven cartways.

Gen. Benjamin Hovey entered into an agreement with the agents of the State in 1789 to open a road from the Unadilla river, to Cayuga lake, near Ithaca. It is known as the old State road and is the same which is now traveled from the Unadilla River to this village, and

thence west to McDonough, Cincinnatus, and Ithaca, with very little alteration in the course. The materials for carrying on the surveys of the Gore of the "Twenty Towns" and for cutting the State road were brought up the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers in canoes from Athens, Penn., a distance of about eighty miles, against a rapid current nearly the whole distance.

Francis Balcom, while living in Unadilla, became acquainted with Gen. Hovey, and through him, took in hand the work of cutting the timber, bridging streams, grading and otherwise constructing the road from Rockdale on the Unadilla river to Oxford on the Chenango river. Those who assisted him were his brother Samuel, Andrew Sprowl, Thomas and James McCalpin, all skilled woodmen. They selected a spot on the east hill to erect a cabin, wherein they might find shelter. One day was devoted to cutting and hauling logs, which, when ready fitted, were drawn to the spot by binding chains around their waists. Before night-fall the cabin was ready for occupancy, and Joab Enos took charge of it and boarded the road-makers. In 1804 Francis and Samuel Balcom took a contract to build a bridge across the Susquehanna river at Wattles ferry and one at the Catskill turnpike.

The corduroy road was the first improvement made to render public highways passable by vehicles. Miry ground and chuck holes were filled up with sapplings and logs, and whole roads were made of transverse logs touching one another, cut in lengths about twelve feet long.

The two-wheeled cart, clumsily built and wasteful of power, was next used by our forefathers for transportation purposes, though the transfer of merchandise still was chiefly in the winter by "sledding." In those days the winters were severe with deep snow. The pioneer at that season of the year had little else to do, and the rough

and clumsy-built roads were made smooth by the passage of the sleds.

After a few years regular freight wagons or sleighs, besides the mail coach, were run and a vast amount of travel and traffic passed over the old State road, or Catskill turnpike in the days before canals and railroads. For many years distances were reckoned from tavern to tavern, and stone mile posts were met with at every mile of the road.

All the products of the farm, butter, grain, lumber, wool, etc., had to be drawn over this road to reach a market, and returning teams brought the merchants their merchandise. As even little towns furnished freight, the aggregate was large, and, as they neared the Catskills, the number of teams on the highway seemed enormous. Droves of hundreds of heads of cattle and sheep were of daily occurrence; stages, with two and three extras; teams, heavily loaded, passed both ways; taverns as often as every two miles the whole length of the road, and all crowded nearly every night. Private carriages without number, loaded with people and their baggage, all helped to swell the vast calvalcade that daily passed over this popular turnpike.

The haulers of freight were sturdy and healthy men, of regular habits, though not always strictly temperate. Their life was much too vigorous for them to be drunkards.

During the winter sleighs and pungs took the place of wagons. They were heavily loaded with frozen hogs, poultry and venison; firkins of butter, bags of beans, peas, sheep-pelts, deerhides, skins of mink and fox, occasionally a bear skin; nuts that had been gathered by the children, yarn that the housewife had spun, and stockings and mittens that the white-haired mother had knitted; homespun cloths and linen. Besides this were hay and

oats for the horses, and food to last the teamster until the end of the trip, which consisted of doughnuts and cheese, cold roast pork, sausage, and "rye and injun"

Meals at the taverns cost but little, a "cold bite" could be had for a shilling, and a warm meal two shillings, but the teamsters often preferred to take their own food with them, which they ate at the taverns, and, if they washed their own dishes, the landlord got six cents for furnishing hot tea, and was expected to throw in a glass of whiskey when the bill was settled. It was immaterial to tavern keepers whether or not they served meals. More profit was made on the liquors sold and sleeping accommodation given, though the latter was crude enough. Great fires were built in barroom and parlor, the teamsters spreading blankets and robes upon the floor, rolled up in them and slept with feet toward the fire, thus forming a half-circle. Ten cents was paid for the privilege of thus lodging, but the sale of rum and cider made a fat wallet for the tavern keeper.

In winter the teamsters were attired in heavy homespun clothing, calfskin boots with trousers tucked inside, and fur-lined overshoes over the boots. Over all these were bright red knit leggings, which came up nearly to their thighs. They wore a fur or buffalo skin coat, a red comforter and fur cap with ear protectors. Many also had red silk sashes around their bodies, tied on the left side with a double bow with tassels. Their hands were encased in double-pegged mittens, leather or fur gloves. The costume made the men picturesque figures at the taverns.

The first mail route through Oxford was from Cooperstown to Binghamton, then called Chenango Point, and was without doubt established soon after the settlement of Oxford was begun. The little community at first was

supplied with a semi-monthly mail, then a weekly mail was carried over this route on horseback as late as 1819, when a stage line was formed from Utica to Binghamton by Joseph Willoughby of Oxford, who commenced a "stage wagon with two horses," making weekly trips, which were soon changed to semi-weekly. In 1821 George Munsell of Binghamton purchased Mr. Willoughby's route, running semi-weekly and himself driving. In 1825 he put on a post coach and four horses and continued one of the principal proprietors of the Utica line for many years.

In 1822 a stage route and mail line was formed from Catskill to Ithaca, which soon became a very general thoroughfare of travel. The stage left Catskill every Sunday morning and arrived in Oxford on the following Tuesday morning. Leaving Oxford on Wednesday afternoon it arrived in Catskill on Friday afternoon. In later years the route was improved and the stage left Catskill for Ithaca every morning on arrival of boats from New York, via Delhi, Unadilla, Oxford, etc., the route being 165 miles long. Leaving Ithaca every morning at 3 o'clock, the stage arrived in Catskill the second day. Thirty pounds of baggage was allowed and 140 pounds was equal to a passenger. The fare was four cents per mile.

Burr Bradley, who drove the stage on the Catskill line in 1822, was a striking character and an important individual; popular with travelers and acquainted with everyone who resided on his lengthy route. He was a good natured fellow and his arrival in town was hailed with joy by all the juveniles, which he announced by frequent blasts upon a long tin horn, that echoed through the valley from the head of Albany Street. This was also a signal for the loungers to bestir themselves and

gather on the tavern porch as the stage drew up with vehement "Whoas!" He was never without a story, which he would tell in such a humorous way that many considered it a treat to ride with him, and he was a general favorite of the boys and girls, with whom he cracked his jokes. His team was covered with ivory rings, and he was always talking to it when not conversing with the passengers. He never was without a runaway, kicker, and biter in his team; sat up straight, kept his reins taut and whip erect in his left hand. He talked to his horses as he would to a person. "Git up, Bill, have to touch ye up if ye git shirky." "If you don't do better, Tom, I'll swap ye off fur one of Ben Butler's old sheep, and git the best of the bargain then." He carried from town to town, and from house to house, general news, sometimes gossip, and often word in regard to the health of friends. His progress along the highway was eagerly watched by the farmer in the field, who paused in his work until the stage was lost to sight; while at every house faces at the small windows greeted him and his passengers. He would stop his team at a lonely spot, where a little home was located, perhaps miles from town, and to the pale and anxious woman who came to the door joy and thankfulness would radiate her features at his message: "Sam's fever has left him, and he's hungrier than a b'ar. The doctor says he's comin' out all right." And, with a "God bless you, Burr, for the good news," he would drive on. At another place he would leave the message: "Mary and the baby will be up next trip. Wants ye to tell all the folks so she wont miss seeing any of 'em." Burr had a kindly disposition and was a good friend to everyone but himself, which eventually led to his death by a fall from his stage, resulting in a broken neck. He was sincerely mourned by old and

young, and his many acts of kindness were remembered for years.

About 1822 Ethan Clarke came to Oxford and purchased the Stage House, now the Hotchkiss House, and later became connected with the stage line that stopped at his house.

In 1823 mail coaches and stages ran twice a week from Oxford to Albany, Utica, Catskill, and to Newburgh by way of Binghamton

In 1825 Jacob P. Hill carried on horseback the first mail from Oxford to McDonough.

In 1829 the Oxford and Cooperstown line left Oxford daily, Saturday excepted, at 4 A. M., and arrived at Cooperstown in the evening. This route was a part of the Ithaca and Albany line of post coaches, which made the trip in three days. The line was intersected at Oxford by the Binghamton, Catskill and Utica line. All baggage was carried at the risk of the owner. A writer in the Chenango Republican, published in Oxford under date of January 20, 1830, said: "It is not generally known in this section of the county which is the shortest and most convenient route to New York. One who is intimately acquainted, recommends leaving this village either on Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday morning—will pass through Chenango Point, and reach Montrose the evening of each day, passing through Milford and Morristown, in New Jersey, and reach New York the third day from leaving Oxford."

In 1836 stages ran from Utica to Oxford and Binghamton every day except Sunday; leaving Utica at 5 A. M., they reached Oxford the first day, thence to Binghamton next day at noon.

In 1847 A. H. Watkins, then a resident of Oxford, established a coach communication between Oxford and

Norwich. The coach left Oxford daily at 8 A. M. and 2 P. M., and on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7 P. M. Returning, it left Norwich at 10 A. M., and 5 P. M. every day, and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5 A. M. also. The fare was twenty-five cents one way, or thirty-eight cents round trip.

In May, 1847, the fare was reduced on the Binghamton, Utica and Albany route, and a four-horse post coach left Binghamton at 7 A. M., arriving at Utica at 12 P. M. the next day. Returning, it left Utica at 3 P. M., reaching Binghamton the next day at 11 A. M. An accommodation left Oxford every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 5 A. M., reaching Utica at 5 P. M.

The old four-horse post coach, or Concord coach, was a clumsy vehicle, hung on thoroughbraces, which lurched over the rough road like a ship in a seaway. They contained three seats with leather cushions. Behind the middle seat was a broad leather strap to support the backs of passengers. Two seats on the outside would accommodate four persons besides the driver. In winter the coach was placed on runners. Curtains were closely buttoned at the sides and big buffalo robes and a liberal supply of straw contributed a slight degree of comfort. When the coach stopped at a tavern the passengers would alight to warm themselves, hanging their shawls and broad-flapped coats on a wooden peg and draw up before the log fire, the men in the barroom were surrounded by a group of townsmen eager for the latest news, and from the ladies in the public sitting-room the landlady often got much information from the fashionable world.

In January, 1848, Mr. Watkins fitted up a stage on runners and appropriately named it the "Snow Bird." It was placed on the "accommodation line" between

Oxford and Norwich. A stove was securely fastened inside, which insured a comfortable ride.

Accidents were of occasional occurrence, of which we will mention one. On October 10, 1834, as the stage was near Unadilla on its way to Oxford, the horses became frightened at the bloody cloths about a butcher's wagon, ran away, and threw themselves with the coach, which was well filled with passengers, down a steep bank. The coach was crushed to pieces and two residents of Oxford were among the injured: the Rev. Mr. Bush receiving a fracture of the collar bone, and Cyrus A. Bacon severe bruises about the head. One horse was instantly killed.

In 1848 A. H. Watkins & Co.'s Catskill route to New York was popular on account of the day arrangement. Covered carriages were run to Gilbertsville, and four-horse coaches from there to Catskill. The line left Oxford at 7 A. M. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, remained over night at Stamford, making a passage to New York in two days with no traveling at night. Returning the stage left Catskill daily for the Chenango Valley; on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday for Oxford, and on the alternate days for Greene and Ithaca.

Four-horse coaches in January, 1849, left Oxford daily, Sunday excepted, on arrival of accommodation line from Utica, and arrived in Deposit in time for the Erie train to New York. The fare was $5.15. The Monday morning stage left Oxford at midnight and run in time for trains to New York the same day.

In April, 1851, a stage commenced running tri-weekly between Oxford and Cooperstown, leaving the former place at 6 A. M. and arriving at the latter at 5 P. M., and returning on alternate days at the same hour.

In August, 1851, G. M. Bartle and I. Slater started a

daily stage from Oxford to Deposit, leaving Oxford at 6:30 A. M., passing through Coventryville, South Bainbridge, Vallonia Springs, Sanford Centre, and arrived at Deposit at 1 P. M., in time for the Express east. Returning it left Deposit at 7 A. M., after arrival of morning train from New York, reaching Oxford at 3 P. M.

In July, 1858, arrangements were made with the Syracuse and Binghamton and the Erie railroads, whereby passengers were receipted directly through to New York at the rate of $6.00. The stage left Oxford at 6:15 A. M., making connections at Chenango Forks and giving passengers two hours in Binghamton, landing them in New York City the same evening.

In May, 1861, two lines of stages passed daily through Oxford and the fare was reduced to $5.85 to New York.

In June, 1866, Peter Packard started a stage line from Oxford to Unadilla to connect with the Albany and Susquehanna, now the Delaware and Hudson railroad. Leaving Oxford at 8 A. M., passengers reached Albany in time for evening boats on the Hudson river to New York. Later the stage line was changed to Sidney, and then to Bainbridge, as the railroad was extended to those places.

The year 1870 saw the last of the four-horse mail coach in the Chenango Valley, as the New York, Ontario and Western railway ran its first passenger and mail train into this town on the 21st day of February of that year, and the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad was opened on the 19th of December of the same year.

ONE of the pastimes in early days was that of gathering at the river during Spring freshets and watch the lumber rafts float down stream to tidewater.

As Tammie gloured, amazed and curious,
The mirth and fun grew fast and furious.—BURNS.

River Bridge Bee.

The first bridge across the majestic Chenango at Oxford was built by Theodore Burr, an architect and famous bridge builder, from Egremont, Mass., in the year 1800. The second bridge was constructed under the direction of Jonathan Baldwin in 1823-4. At the commencement of this work it was necessary to procure the assistance of numbers of men and teams from the neighboring towns in drawing stone for the abutments and piers. This plan of united effort for a single object was to be termed a Bee. It was a new kind of one, though not the first.

In order to intensify the *pro bono publico* spirit which would prompt a general acceptance of the invitation to men with teams, on the laborious occasion, the committee resolved to celebrate the day, and at the same time provide substantial beef rations, by roasting an immense ox on a frame or spit, after the manner of a grand barbecue.

On September 7, 1822, a meeting of the inhabitants of the village and town was held at Clark's Hotel, where the subject of a new bridge was discussed. In January, 1823, the following call was issued:

NOTICE

The undersigned Commissioners of OXFORD BRIDGE, request the inhabitants of Oxford, Smithville & Preston, to assist in drawing STONE from Mr. Abel Smith's to said bridge in this village, on Sat-

urday next. As the people of the above towns are interested in repairing said bridge, it is expected a punctual attendance will be given.

S. Balcom,
J. Stratton, Com's.
S. Parker,

Oxford, Jan. 28.

In February, 1823, another meeting was held and the following handbill was issued:

OXFORD

BRIDGE BEE.

[*Cut of Ox as Roasting.*]

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Oxford, at Clark's Hotel, on the 19th of February, 1823, to take into consideration the Bridge about to be constructed over the Chenango,

HEZEKIAH MORSE, Chairman.

C. A. Thorp, Secretary.

Resolved, That the inhabitants of Oxford, and the adjacent towns, be invited to attend in person, and with teams, on Friday the 28th February inst for the drawing of Stone necessary to the New Bridge.

Resolved, That Ransom Rathbone, Ira Willcox, Abijah Lobdell, Henry Mygatt, Epaphras Miller, and Erastus Perkins, be a committee in behalf of the village, to co-operate with the Commissioners in carrying the above project into effect.

Resolved, That Ethan Clark, George A. Cary, Uri Tracy, Jun., David St. John, Marcus Sherwood, Charles A. Hunt, Luther Newcomb, Ira M'Niel, Austin Rouse, Ebenezer Sherwood, Thomas Newkirk, Roswell M'Call, George Farnham, Oliver T. Bundy, John W. Allen, Richard Van Wagenen, Frederick Stratton, Erastus Smith, George C. Billings, and Rufus Hopkins, be a committee of vigilance, whose duty it shall be to notify the people of the above meeting, and to give to the proceedings of the day force and activity.

Resolved, That Amos A. Franklin, Otis J. Tracy, Samuel Cole, Solomon Dodge, Edward Loomis, Jeremiah Ten Brook, Asa Beverly, Shubal Coy, Samuel Lewis, Luther Osgood, Jesse Keech, Daniel Shumway, Joseph Noyes, and Solomon Bundy, be appointed captains of the Bee, to direct the loading and unloading of teams, the whole to be under the superintendence of the commissioners.

The importance to the people of Oxford, and the neighboring towns, of having a firm and substantial Bridge across the Chenango, it is hoped, will procure a general attendance. The stone are quarried and in piles, and the sleighing is excellent. Those who have teams are

solicited to come with them, and those who have no teams, are requested to attend to assist in the loading and unloading.

Five Hundred Dollars were required to be subscribed for the Bridge: more than that sum has been already subscribed. The object of this Bee is to increase the funds for building a permanent Bridge. The labour thus furnished by the liberality of individuals has no connection with the subscription.

A FAT OX will be roasted on the VILLAGE GREEN near the Bridge, and at five o'clock, each man who has participated in the labors of the day, will be at liberty to line his *bread-basket* with as much roast beef and trimmings, as he can conveniently carry. This repast, furnished through the patriotism of our citizens, will be offered to those only who assist in getting stone for the Bridge. Drones, poachers, and interlopers, whose only object is sport, will not be fed. To guard against imposition, tickets of admission to the supper table, will be distributed by the captains of the Bee. Capt. John Fisher, aided by several young men, will conduct the BARBECUE. The best of hay will be provided for the horses.

Gentlemen who reside in the adjacent villages, will confer a favor by procuring and sending labourers and teams. All who afford us assistance in any shape, are cordially invited to cut in for a lunch of the Ox.

SAMUEL BALCOM,
SIMEON PARKER, } Commissioners.
JOHN STRATTON,

Oxford, February 22, 1823.

The great day finally dawned and with it came men and teams from far and near to assist, and those from opposite sides of the river vied with each other in getting first at the work. The day proved to be very stormy and intensely cold, but all worked diligently, and big bonfires were kindled to lessen the severity of the weather.

The ox had been roasted entire on a spit passing through its body, which was suspended between two wheels, and made to revolve over the fire for two days and a night in cooking it. Tickets, marked with the word "Barbecue," had been distributed among those who had assisted, who instantly thronged about the tables when roast ox was announced. Potatoes and bread in huge quantities were provided with the beef, and he was lucky who could fill both hands with the trio of edibles, as the foremost ones at the table were rudely pressed forward by hungry battalions in their rear.

The air was full of chill, and many of the crowd were full of enthusiasm, as Ira Wilcox, the Fort Hill merchant, had been a very liberal provider of cider and whisky. After a terrible battle with the beef, in which scarcely a trace was left, their spirits rose to such a pitch that dishes and potatoes alike were sent sailing through the air. Amid frantic yells for more beef, when there was no beef, the jovial horde snatched the spit with the remains of the roast, composing the frame of the creature only, supported still by the two wheels, and gave an exhibition through the principal street on the west side of the village. They then rushed merrily singing across the bridge towards Fort Hill. It is impossible to impart the impressions which the sight, and especially the sounds of the procession, inspired in the minds of an unoffending public, except, that, in the case of the Fort Hill merchant, we are able to get a gleaning of his "impressions," as he afterwards sat on the occasion. Mr. Wilcox was standing in his store door, when, as in a waking vision, he beheld the unusual spectacle bearing down upon him over the bridge. He stood, arrayed in all the stern dignity which he could wear so well, and withal, in a black suit of smoothest cloth. With glasses adjusted, and eyes riveted on the advancing apparition, he shouted:

"Don't you come over here with that; we won't have it!"

"Yes, we will, too!" was the reply in a chorus of babel voices.

Then, before the merchant prince could realize his position, he was seized and placed astride the moving carcass. The panorama passed on amid the cries of "Hail to the King!" with its added accumulation of backbone, which Mr. Wilcox was known to possess, through the streets

of the east side of the river. Then the good natured merchant was unhorsed, with his broadcloth bearing the glistening marks of a tallow dip. Thus passed this memorable day into history.

THE MANNER in which the celebration of the successful laying of the first Atlantic cable was carried out, in the evening of August 6, 1858, was worthy of Oxford in her best days. Although but a short time could be given for preparation, residences and stores were brilliantly illuminated, the old Academy boarding hall with its hundreds of candles in the windows made a sight that is remembered to this day. The Oxford Band from the balcony of the Lewis block discoursed excellent music, a six-pounder in front of the Stage House kept up a regular cannonading, and a balloon ascension closed the festivities. The balloon was, no doubt, the handiwork of *"Hank" Knapp, who used to make huge paper balloons of many colors and send them up on all public occasions. The streets were thronged with people, all expressing joy at the wonderful feat in laying a telegraph wire under the Atlantic ocean and being able to send messages o'er the sea.

* Henry S. Knapp was one of the twenty or thirty young men who learned telegraphy in Oxford and later filled responsible positions as managers and operators in the west. Mr. Knapp died several years ago.

MANY STORIES are told of Joseph Walker, odd of speech and emphatic in expression. One will illustrate: Mr. Walker was ill, his last sickness in fact, and his old friend and neighbor, Cyrus A. Bacon, dropped in to see him. "Good morning, Mr. Walker," he said, "how do you feel today?" "Poorly, poorly, how do you get along, Bacon!" "I don't feel very well myself, Mr. Walker," replied Mr. Bacon. The sick man rolled his eyes and murmured, "Ah, Bacon, THEY WANT US."

And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Find tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.
—SHAKESPEARE.

In Rafting Days.

Ira B. McFarland, of whom mention is made elsewhere in the Annals, often related his experience in the vast pineries which, in the early history of the country, filled the valleys of the Chenango and the Susquehanna, and covered the intervening hills and broad tablelands. The forests, as they stood in their primitive glory, contained tall and straight trees, many of them gigantic in size, lifting their regal heads heavenward, and sweeping in one vast wilderness for miles upon every side, constituting a source of untold wealth. Some of the trees would be four and five feet in diameter, and seventy feet to the first limbs. Many of the pines would make four thousand feet of lumber, and the manner in which they were prepared for transportation, in the form of lumber, to distant markets is interesting.

A "gang" of men would enter the woods with axes and saws. The choppers going before would select their trees, passing by the ordinary and taking only the noblest specimens. The tree fairly down, it was examined, and it required but a trifling imperfection to condemn it, and then it was abandoned and left to decay. The first step in the process of cutting the felled tree into logs was to "butt" it, that is, from four to eight feet of the trunk next the stump would be sawed off and rejected. This

was done because this portion of the tree was generally "shaky," or filled with seams, which would render it of little value when converted into lumber. This condition of the lower portion of the trunks of pine and hemlock trees is probably caused by the swaying to and fro of the tree, year after year of its life, whenever the winds blow, which bends the solid wood just at this point, and necessarily strains the fibres and rends them apart by the powerful action and weight of the great body above.

Sawmills were erected upon a creek or river bank, to which the logs would be drawn during the winter season, and there converted into lumber ready for rafting down the river when the spring freshets came. A raft would generally contain about forty thousand feet of lumber, making it in length not far from one hundred and forty feet, and in width from twelve to sixteen feet, with a solid depth of three feet. Sometimes a cabin would be made of a few of the boards and placed in the center of the raft, which afforded protection for the raftsmen against the cold driving rains and boisterous winds of the early spring season. A straw bunk and one or two kettles were usually all the outfit the cabin contained. Coarse bread, pork and beans, and potatoes were the daily rations. To guide the raft, two oars were provided, one at the forward end, the other at the rear end, and consisted of a large pole thirty or forty feet in length, resting by the center over a head block, with a wooden pin through it, which permitted it to turn in any direction. Upon the end in the water was fastened a long, wide plank, that formed the rudder, which was easily operated by means of the long lever portion extending back of the head block. The oars, with an occasional use of poles, would guide the raft most effectually, and a pilot and one hand was all that was needed to run down as far as Columbia, on the

Susquehanna. Here over a stretch of forty miles, through swift rapids and among numerous rocks, the aid of five men were required to manage the raft. At Columbia another gang of men took the raft on down to the head of tide water on Chesapeake Bay. Here fifty or more rafts would be put together and run to Baltimore, where the lumber found a ready market.

A MAP OF THE VILLAGE of Oxford, drawn in 1824 by the late Henry R. Mygatt then a boy in his teens, is in possession of Charles W, Brown. The map shows only the now main streets as they then existed, with the buildings located thereon. A wooden river bridge, three times the length of the present iron structure, extended nearly to what is now Canal street, there was no "Navy Island" (now the main business street) nor was the Chenango canal built. LaFayette Park is on the map as Baldwin's square, and Washington Park as Academy square from the fact that the first academy was located there in 1794; Clinton street was Baltimore street, and State Cayuga street. Cork Island is shown above the bridge. The island was somewhere in the vicinity of the present Basket factory, but time and floods have changed the channels and its location is lost.

ONE GENERAL TRAINING DAY Wayne Berry, a noted character, came to town on horseback and rode up in front of the Stage House when the grith broke and he fell off into the mud, still seated in the saddle. The crowd broke into a laugh, when Wayne, seated in the mud, exclaimed: "Gentleman, it's a d—d good horseman that sticks to his saddle."





[illegible]

Oxford Academy.

Oxford Academy was located in the village here years after the town was founded. In [illegible] under the name of "The Trustees of Oxford Academy" [illegible] January 21, 1794, but was not [illegible] until January 21, 1824, and was one of the first [illegible] in the State west of the Genesee. Among other matters [illegible] the following:

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

1895 to give place to the present handsome and commodious edifice, was the fifth structure in succession since the charter was granted.

The first building completed and occupied was erected in the autumn of 1792, and was the first framed building raised in town. It was used for a private and classical school for more than eighteen months, and was taught by Uri Tracy, a graduate of Yale, who also was the first principal of the Academy.

The site of the first house was on the northwesterly side of Washington Park, near the residence of the late Dr. George Douglas. It soon proved too limited for the increasing needs of the schools, and in December, 1797, was sold with part of the site for eighty pounds. A part of the lot was released to Benj. Hovey in exchange for twenty rods of land in the southerly part of the common, near the present residence of Joseph E. Packard, and the second building was erected and completed on this site in the autumn of 1799.

This second Academy was destroyed by fire and never occupied, and a third building was erected upon the same site in the first year of the past century. This third structure was removed from the lot on the common in 1806 to the southerly side of Merchant's Row, at its intersection with Greene Street, opposite lands now a part of the estate of the late Ward VanDerLyn. Here it continued in use for the school until about the year 1832, when it was sold to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church who used it as a place of public worship until the erection of their present church on Fort Hill.

At a meeting of trustees in October, 1794, it was

Voted. That this Board consider themselves indebted to Uri Tracy in the sum of £50 for his services as principal during six months past.

Voted. That a petition be presented to the legislature requesting them to grant unto the Academy of Oxford the benefit of the land in

the county of Tioga set apart for the purpose of promoting literature.

Voted. That Mr. Solomon Martin be requested to procure a seal for this board, to be known as the seal of Oxford Academy; and that the expense of procuring the same be paid by the Treasurer.

Voted. That a committee of three be appointed for the purpose of procuring a teacher.

Benjamin Hovey, Uri Tracy and Solomon Martin were chosen accordingly.

Voted. That a member of this board attend the Regency of the University the ensuing winter relative to the future support of this encorporation, and that Benj. Hovey be requested to attend for that purpose.

Voted. That a committee of three be appointed for the purpose of keeping the academy in repair and to make some alteration in the water now brought to the house for the use of the school.

Voted. That the proprietors of the private library have liberty to erect a book case or other necessary equipments for their accommodation, free of expense, in this house.

Voted. That if any scholar break glass, or injure this house, he, or his guardian shall repair the same at his own expense.

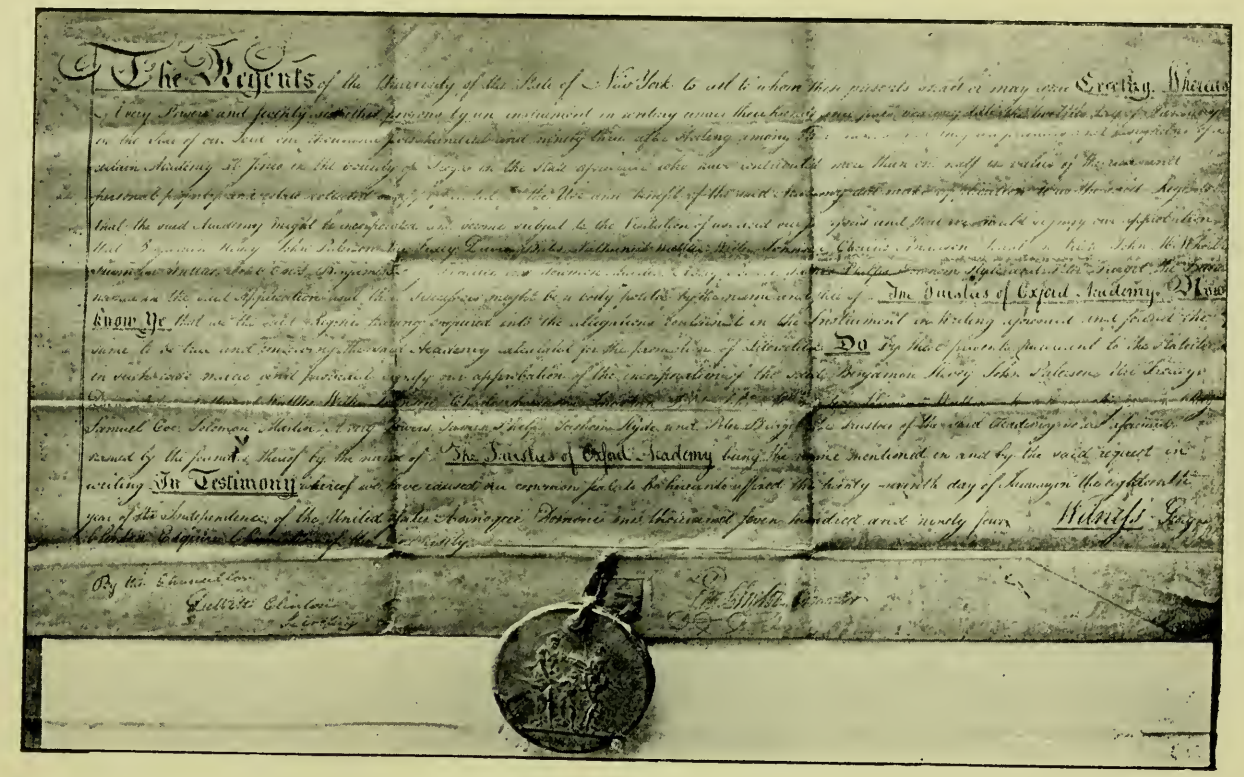
Voted. That the secretary be directed to transmit a copy of this and the former proceedings of this board to the Treasurer and Teacher of the school within fifteen days from date, and that he charge the expense thereof to this board. (Signed.)

Benjamin Hovey, Uri Tracy, Solomon Wattles, John McWhorter, Witter Johnson, James Phelps, Joab Enos, David Bates, Benj. Ray, Avery Powers, Solomon Martin.

It was in the third Academy, under David Prentice as principal, afterwards professor of the Greek and Latin in Geneva (now Hobart) College, that among other names the roll bears those of Horatio Seymour, sometime Governor of the State; John W. Allen, who in 1840 was Postmaster General under the first Harrison; Ward Hunt, who afterwards sat upon the bench of the Supreme Court of the nation; Joseph G. Masten, who was a Judge of the Superior Court of Buffalo; Charlemagne Tower, whose name was familiar in the world of business and finance; Ferris Forman, who was afterwards graduated at West Point, and was in the war with Mexico, and reached honorable rank in the army; Henry W. Rogers, a leading lawyer and popular citizen of Buffalo, and prominent in political life; and Henry R. Mygatt, who, during nearly forty years of able and honorable practice

of the law in Oxford, was the liberal citizen, the steadfast patron and friend of the Academy, adding to her strength and usefulness by his willing service, wise counsel and constant benefactions. Of those who were with them at school, Hon. Frederick Juliand of Greene, Mrs. Elizabeth (Hopkins) Newkirk and Mr. Alanson Hull of this town, were the last survivors. Horatio Seymour as a schoolboy was known as " Pompey " Seymour, a nickname he brought with him from the circumstance of his birth place being in Pompey, Onondaga County. He was tall of his age, figure in just proportion, brilliant black eyes, straight as an arrow, and graceful in every move. In athletic exercises he was ahead of his companions, and in his studies was always perfect. Every Wednesday afternoon was declamation, and he was the orator par excellence that others tried to imitate. His favorite piece was the speech of Robert Emmet, in his own defense before the English court that condemned him. He had other declamations, but the students always were delighted when he spoke and acted this piece.

The fourth school building, dedicated January 2, 1832, was erected on the easterly side of Fort Hill, opposite the Baptist church, and was far in advance of any before in its architecture and fitness for school purposes. It was surmounted with a dome to which a new bell was added, which is still in use to summon students to duty. What a long array of students in succession have heeded it calling them to their tasks! How many have heard its glad welcome to entertainment and festival and anniversary! How sweetly, may be sadly, its sweet tones have vibrated in the young, brave hearts of some on battle fields, while they thought of the severed ties of dear kinship and tender association never perchance to be renewed on this side the veil!



ORIGINAL CHARTER OF OXFORD ACADEMY.—Signed in 1794 by GEORGE CLINTON, the first Governor of the State of New York

In this building a separate apartment for girls was first instituted under a preceptress, the gentler sex having until then been wholly under the training of the principal and his male assistants. The school now entered upon a career of great prosperity and wider usefulness, under the mastership of Merritt G. McKoon, and Miss Emily C. Benedict, the first female instructress ever employed for the school. The employment of a female teacher was a subject of grave consideration, for, at a meeting March 12, 1830, it was resolved "That Messrs. VanDerLyn, Tracy, and Clapp be a committee to examine and report on the expediency of establishing a female branch to the Academy." As the committee were all lawyers, their report in favor of the employment seemed to put at rest as least every legal objection that could be urged against it.

John Abbott succeeded Mr. McKoon, and in no equal term of life has its patronage been so wide spread as during their principalship, covering a period of over twenty years. It reached quite beyond mere local limits and gathered students not only from other and distant sections of this State, but from those adjoining east, west and south. The catalogue of 1840 had three hundred and ten names, and within fifteen years 3000 different students had been in attendance at the school.

The fifth and last school building erected by the Trustees of Oxford Academy, stood upon the site of the present Union Free School. It was longer in service, and more students have gone out from it, than from any that preceded it. Its dedication August 1 and 2, 1854, called together an assemblage of vast proportion, the second of which is in book form and familiar to many. Of the men who shared the labors and duties of that occasion, nearly all have gone beyond the great divide. Joseph G.

Thorp, the last survivor of the trustees is at rest in the Riverview Cemetery. Of those who took part in the literary exercises, Miss Lucy A. Balcom and Rev. Daniel Washburn, each of whom contributed an ode, are with the great majority beyond. Of the local committee which had in hand the general care and direction of the celebration none are living.

The writer, who was then in his fifth year, distinctly remembers but one event at the Jubilee. The assembly, seated on rough benches, filled the yard facing the building, and the Oxford Band was present to assist in the musical part of the programme. We were too young to be left at home alone, nor could we be fostered upon the neighbors, for they, too, were at the Jubilee. So, hand in hand with our maternal parent, we joined the jubilant throng. All was well till half of the programme was finished, then came a selection from the Band. It was our first experience with a Band, and we rather liked it until the bass drummer loudly struck his instrument, then the serenity of the occasion was amusingly diverted by the sudden dive we made under the benches. Caraway sprigs and peppermint sticks could not dispell our fears nor prevail upon us to come forth until the selection was finished. Then, with tearful eye, we were taken from the scene to the TIMES office, and left to be called for at the close of the afternoon exercises.

The fourth Academy, which had stood on the east side of Fort Hill, was moved during the summer of 1854, and placed near the river and the new school building, and used as a boarding house for teachers and students. Here Merrit G. McKoon, first principal in the fourth building, died very suddenly November 28, 1854. After years of service elsewhere he had come back in the full vigor and

ripe experience of manhood, with high, fond hope of the future, to take again the principalship of the school in the new Academy. His burial from the same building where he had with such zeal and devotion entered upon a new career of useful and honorable service, was well and fitly ordered by the trustees. At his death the roll contained the names of one hundred and ninety-nine students committed to his care.

Of those who followed Mr. McKoon as principal, the longest term of service, extending beyond ten years, was that of David G. Barber, beloved by all of his students. It was during the early part of this period, that more than sixty, who had been or were then students of Oxford Academy, went forward to the defense of the Republic against armed rebellion. Some of these closed their school books and came not back again. Edward S. Bragg, a student of 1844, who was breveted a general for meritorious services and afterwards made minister for the United States to Mexico, was early in the list. A beautiful bronze tablet, figured in low relief of the schoolboy and the young soldier, attracts the eye as one enters the Academy hall, and bears the inscription:

CENTENNIAL TABLET

1794-1894

Erected in Commemoration of the Patriotic Action of the Students of Oxford Academy who, in 1861-1865, voluntarily periled their lives in defense of the Union and the Flag. A tribute of Perpetual Remembrance and undying honor by the Trustees, Teachers, Students and Friends of Oxford Academy in Centennial Celebration assembled, in June 28-29, 1894.

The Centennial of Oxford Academy, June 28 and 29, 1894, brought together men and women from far and near, erstwhile teachers and students, to hear kindly words of welcome, and speak, heart to heart, glad centennial greet-

ings. It was an event that is faithfully recorded in a book compiled by the late Major O. H. Curtis, which will have added interest and value with the passing years.

Following is the succession of principals: Uri Tracy, 1793, '04; Elisha Mosley, 1795; John Kinney, 1807; Rev, Wm. Hyde, 1808; David Prentice,[1] 1821; Wm. D. Beattie, 1825; Rev. Edward Andrews, 1826; Wm. D. Beattie, 1828; Merritt G. McKoon, 1832; John Abbott, 1843; Myron M. Goodenough, 1852; Chas. E. Vanderburgh, 1852; Abel Wood, 1853, William Wight, 1854; Merritt G. McKoon, 1854, until his death; Frederick Humphrey, 1854; J. C. VanBenschoten, 1856; H. Barnes, Jr., 1858; David G. Barber, 1859-70; Henry E. Storrs, 1870; Herbert J. Cook, 1870; Rev. Charles Woodward, 1872; Charles W. Brown, 1872; Warren C. Hubbard, 1872-73; Rev. Frank B. Lewis, 1873; James A. Brown, 1879; Frank D. Budlong, 1883; Frederick L. Gamage, 1885; Herbert P. Gallinger, 1893; William C. Joslin, 1895; R. H. Coe, 1896; Robert K. Toaz, 1899; E. M. Sanders, 1906.

Oxford Academy, having rounded out its century of prosperity, gracefully retired as a private academy and became merged in the free school system under the name of Oxford Academy and Union School. The new building, of brick with Oxford blue stone trimmings, was erected at a cost of $20,000. The building was formally opened September 7, 1897, with appropriate ceremonies. Addresses were made by Hon. Charles W. Brown, principal, Reginald H. Coe, and Hon. Charles R. Skinner, Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State.

[1] David Prentice, LL. D., though far advanced in years, was in 1855 teaching in Geneva, N. Y. On Christmas day of that year he received the gift of $500 from five of his former Oxford pupils. The donors were ex-Governor Seymour and Judge Hunt of Utica; Judge Martin and Henry W. Rogers, Esq., of Buffalo, and Henry R. Mygatt of Oxford.

In this grand wheel, the world, we're spokes made all.—Brome.

Hull Family.

The first record of the Hull family is of Benjamin Hull and his wife Amy of Connecticut. He was impressed in the British army during the Revolutionary war, and never heard from His wife died at the age of one hundred years, five months and twenty-five days.

Their son, John Hull, married Martha Pardee. Their children were: Eli, Eliasaph, Elijah, John, Ebenezer and Rosa.

John Hull, son of John and Martha (Pardee) Hull, was born April 21, 1771; died September 4, 1864, in Oxford; married July 2, 1797, Hannah Wood, born May 14, 1778; died January 16, 1845, in Oxford. In 1798, when he was 27 years old, Mr. Hull, accompanied by his wife, left North Haven, Ct., and settled upon the land now known as the William Hogan farm, about two miles south of Oxford village. He found a wilderness never before inhabited, and lived to see the opening and settling of all the vast territory of Central New York, for over sixty-years of a busy life was before him when he came to his new home. He lived to see cultivated farms, thriving villages and teeming cities take the place of the unbroken wilderness he first knew: Children: Sally, born July 10, 1798; died in Pitcher, N. Y.; married Levi Post; Eli, born November 21, 1799; died in Clinton, N. Y.; Riley, born Aug-

ust 11, 1801; died in Chautauqua, N. Y.; SAMUEL, born April 12, 1803; died in Stockbridge, N. Y.; CLARK, born December 3, 1804; died in Owego, N. Y.; ZERAH, born January 8, 1807; died October 30, 1841, in Ann Arbor, Mich.; twice married. Children by first wife: Sabra C., born September 9, 1831, in Otselic; married October 1847, Dr. Tracy S. Cone; died February 3, 1902, in South Oxford; Sarah C., married —— Greene of Grand Rapids, Mich. Child by second wife: Zerah. HARRY, born July 6, 1809; died January 30, 1902, in Afton; married (1) Amelia Pendleton; died March 18, 1864, in Oxford; married (2) Abbie Cook. Children by first wife: Harriet, married (1) Peter G. Brink; married (2) P. E. Golden of Varna, Thompkins county, N. Y.; HENRY P., married (1) Mary C. Roush; married (2) Dora M. Leslie; resides at Kendrick, Idaho; SARAH J., died April 18, 1874, aged 25, at Knob Noster, Mo.; unmarried. HARRIET, twin to Harry; married —— Adams of Owego, N. Y.; JOHN, born September 20, 1811; lived and died in Guilford, N. Y.; married Eliza Bolles. Children: William H. H., residence in New York city; John died in Norwich, N. Y.; Mary, married Eugene Bunnell of New York city. ELIASAPH, born July 21, 1813; died August 14, 1872, in Oxford; married June 25, 1848, Ellen Goodrich of Avon, Conn., died December 11, 1906, at Germantown, Pa. Child: Ella M., married Nathan A. Bundy, resides in Philadelphia.

Ebenezer Hull, son of John and Martha (Pardee) Hull and his wife Bedee Jacobs, were married January 2, 1803, at North Haven, Conn. They came to Oxford in 1804 and settled on the East Hill on the farm now occupied and owned by their son, James H. Hull. Coming to this town at an early day they were among the pioneers of Chenango county. On July 24, 1849, Mr. Hull, while engaged in the field accidentally fell from a load of hay, receiving in-

juries from which he died almost instantly. His age was 73. For thirty-five years he was a communicant of St. Paul's church. Mrs. Hull died February 24, 1844, aged 64. Children: LEVI, 1st, born April 23, 1804, in Connecticut; died in infancy; ALANSON, born May 21, 1806, in Oxford; died February 3, 1905, in Oxford; married (1) May 26, 1828, Wealthy Warner of Jackson, Washington county, N.Y., who died December 28, 1863; married (2) September 15, 1868, Betsey (Hale) Tully of Norwich, who died March 1, 1875. Alanson Hull was Justice of the Peace for several years, and lived seventy-five years upon the farm he purchased in 1830. He was at one time postmaster, with the office at his home, which was called Oxfordville. At his death he was the oldest communicant of St. Paul's church and the oldest person in town. Children by first wife: Edwin A., (1) married Martha Merrill; married (2) MaryAnn Hatch; resides at Hinsdale, Cattaraugus county, N. Y.; Joseph J., married Sarah M. Mead; Sarah E., married (1) Israel Jacobs; married (2) A. J. Ackley; resides on the homestead; Martha W., married John W. Manning of Coventry. EBENEZER, born June 4, 1809, in Oxford; died July 24, 1887, in Oxford; unmarried; LEVI, 2d, born April 13, 1811, in Oxford; died young; ELIJAH, born February 14, 1814, died unmarried; JAMES HENRY, born November —, 1825; married Jane E. Kinney, who died December 8, 1898, aged 72.

Elijah Hull, son of John and Martha (Pardee) Hull, married Nancy Blakeslee. Their children were: William, Willis, Philemon, and Mary, who died young.

Willis Hull, son of Elijah and Nancy (Blakeslee) Hull, died February 10, 1895, in North Haven, Ct., aged 76; married Emily Bradley, who died January 14, 1899, in Oxford, aged 83. For many years they resided in Oxford on the farm now owned and occupied by James Burke, on

the road to the O. & W. station. Children: LAVINA B., married James O. Dodge of Oxford; MARGARET A., married J. Boardman Smith, of New Haven, Ct.; died September 20, 1862. Child: Arthur H. Smith, resides in New York city.

IN 1832 the McDonough Mineral Springs were extensively advertised and well patronized. Gideon Miner had charge of the hotel at one time and later he conducted for Oxford Academy the gentlemen's boarding hall, now Morton flats. There were a happy lot of boys in the hall at that time, and they kept the genial boarding house manager busy guessing what was going to happen next.

G. D. Phillips ran a line of stages from Oxford to the Springs every Friday afternoon, and carried many jolly loads of health and pleasure seekers during the season.

ALAMANZER WATSON one of the early harness makers had a sign on his shop on Fort Hill which read: "Cash Paid for Dekin Skins." One day C. F. T. Locke hailed Mr. Watson with "Say, Alamanzer, what are you paying for dekin skins?" "Twenty-five cents," was the answer. "Good," said Locke, "I'll go and skin every deacon in my church and send you the hides." The deacons of Mr. Locke's church would have been something of a curiosity, even unskinned.

It must have been an open winter in 1851, for on December 15th it is recorded that a boat loaded with merchandise arrived on the canal from the north.



PARK HOTEL—Decorated for the County Firemen's Tournament in 1898. Hotel remodeled from the old Perkins Tavern, now a double residence.



THE HOTCHKISS HOUSE

For he by geometric scale,
Could take the size of pots of ale.—BUTLER.

Old Tavern Days.

The earlier taverns were not the comfortable institutions of today for there were but few travelers. The rooms were low studded, with great beams overhead, the floors hard oak boards white, smooth and well "sanded." The important feature of the inn was the barroom, with the quart pots, pint pots, gill pots, glass bottles, tankards and its cavernous fireplace, on which huge logs crackled in winter time as the smoke ascended the mammoth chimney. Around the room were big, comfortable chairs, red settees, and a huge bunk wherein the hostler slept at night and on which the village loafer generally roosted during the day, and by the fireplace hung the "flip iron" a necessary adjunct in the days when flip was a popular tipple. Near the bar was a standing desk, with a lid, on which stood an ink horn, quill pens and sandbox. In the desk was kept the account book which recorded the debt of delinquent tipplers and accounts of the tavern. The following gives an idea of the cost to a guest at the "Oxford Village Stage House" "for a day's keep," being a copy of a bill rendered in 1821:

Mr. Jackson	Bill
Breakfast	$ 0.31
Dinner	0.25
Supper	0.25
Brandy Wine & Segars	0.19
Lodging	0.13
Horse keeping and Oats	0.50

Handbills were tacked to the walls, advertising stolen

horses, runaway apprentices and stage lines; the gorgeous show bill was then unknown. Here is a copy of one of the old Stage House bills:

Oxford Village

Stage  **House.**

ETHAN CLARK,

BEGS leave most respectively to inform his friends and the public, that he has taken the TAVERN STAND on the west side of the Chenango river in the village of Oxford, and has made upon the house a general and complete repair. He is now ready to furnish travellers and gentlemen who wish to spend a few days in the village, or boarders, with every accommodation that the situation of the country will afford. His bar shall be supplied with the best of liquors, his table furnished with the choicest viands, and his charges as reasonable as at any other public house in the county. He assures all those who may be pleased to call upon him, that his indefatigable personal exertions, together with the most assiduous attention of his family, shall not be wanting to render his house pleasant and comfortable.

☞ His Stables and sheds have also been repaired so as to furnish extensive accommodations to horses.

***A STAGE arrives at his house twice a week from Newburgh and Geneva, via Chenango Point—once a week from Catskill—and twice a week from Albany and Utica.

Oxford, 6th November, 1821.

The landlord enjoyed the right to sell liquors and in those early days all classes indulged in the practice of drinking; in moderation to be sure, but as often as occasion demanded. The landlord was an important personage, his name was conspicuous over the door, or on the sign, and he usually looked after the comfort of his guests without putting himself to any great trouble. He had a penchant for public office and himself sang bass in the choir on Sunday. His rotund figure was conspicuous on election

days, well dressed though always appearing in his shirt sleeves. He was the village oracle and able to discuss politics, theology and science, to at least his own satisfaction.

The landlady was usually the one who toiled early and late. The polished and well sanded floor, immaculate window panes, clean blue china, and savory dishes, attested her care. She and her daughter officiated in the dining room, and were famous for their wonderful dumplings with potato crusts. Chickens were plenty, likewise fresh vegetables from the tavern garden. Then there was the appetizing baked beans, warm brown bread, succotash, rye cakes, and pandowdy. Ale, usually home brewed, cider and black tea were poured from pewter flagons. The water, clear and cold, was drawn from a well by a "sweep." At supper, among the prime favorites, were hot ginger bread, Johnny-cake, delicious waffles and mush and milk. People in those primitive times were not particular and were willing to sleep under any arrangement, so long as they got shelter. It was usual to have two or three beds in a room, and it was a common occurrence for the landlord to enter, candle in hand, the room of a guest, and escort a stranger to his side to calmly share the bed till morning, sometimes three sharing one bed, and a man was regarded as very unreasonable who objected to a stranger for a bedfellow. If the night was cold, a warming pan would be passed over the sheets and the guest was left to the consolation of a feather bed and patch work quilts, and considered himself fortunate if he was not compelled to share his quarters with one or more guests. If the tavern was crowded then one had to sleep before the open fire, rolled up in a bear skin robe, while the great logs in the black fireplace became white ashes.

Many of the old taverns had an assembly hall on the upper floor, and here fair maidens and ruddy-faced youths

enjoyed the contra dances to the music of a violin. Balls commenced at four o'clock and often lasted until next morning.

The original portion of what is now the Hotchkiss House was built previous to 1796 and for many years known as Wells' Tavern. The house was of typical New England architecture, two stories in front, sloping toward the rear until a man could touch the eaves, and was painted red. Behind the tavern was a large shed with roof and open sides for the protection from rain of snow or loaded wagons.

One November afternoon there gathered at the tavern several of the townspeople for the pot of extra-brew and the long clay pipes, called church-wardens. Among those present were: Anson Cary, in broadcloth and expansive shirt front; Eleazer Smith, tall and lank; John Fitch, wearing a tile hat and stiff black stock; Josiah Hackett, in continental suit; John Holmes and Jared Hinckley in homespun; all patriots of the Revolution. It was at these gatherings that fell many of the epigrams which were recalled years after. On this particular day the subject of conversation finally drifted to the Continental army and its officers. John Fitch spoke up and said:

"Wells, pint of ale, please, and a churchwarden." Then shifting his chair, continued: "Speaking of Benedict Arnold, although rendered infamous by his attempt to betray his country--"

"Rabbit ye, an' be darn'd!" broke in Josiah Hackett, "hold your gab there, old Arnold was a traitor and brought up all standing."

"Yes, yes," replied Fitch, but I want to say some things about him that I know. I was at the second battle at Freeman's Farm, where the British were totally defeated by Arnold, who had charged with mad fury upon their

line. During the battle a wounded Hessian soldier, lying on the ground, fired at Arnold and slew his horse, while the ball passed through the general's left leg that had already been wounded, and fractured the bone above the knee. As Arnold fell, one of our men attempted to bayonet the wounded soldier who had shot him, when the general cried out, "For God's sake, don't hurt him; he's a fine fellow!" The Hessian was spared, and I have always said that was the time Benedict Arnold should have died."

"Oh, the old sneezer!" again put in Hackett. "I've heard when he was dressed up the bottom of his waist was pinched up to the size of a quart cup; that he wore eleven capes to his coat, and over the place where his brains should have been a jockey cap of catskin, and carried a mock gold watch with two seals, each as big as a premium turnip."

"He wasn't quite such a fop as that," said John Holmes, knocking the ashes from his pipe, "but I have heard that before his death in England he was shunned and depised by even the English."

After a general filling and lighting of pipes and a round of ale, Jared Hinckley got into a reminiscent mood and related one of his experiences:

"If ever I struck hell upon earth it was at the battle of Oriskany, fought in a dark ravine filled with a mass of fifteen hundred human beings, made up with St. Leger and his Indians and loyalists, and General Herkimer with 800 hundred pioneers; all screaming and cursing, slipping in the mire, pushing and struggling, seizing each other's throats, stabbing and shooting, and dashing out brains. It was a sight that will never leave my eyes. General Herkimer had unconsciously marched into an ambuscade, but his men soon recovered and fought with the courage

and skill of veterans. The slaughter, however, was dreadful. At the beginning of the battle a musket ball passed through and killed the horse of General Herkimer and shattered his own leg just below the knee. With perfect composure and cool courage, he ordered the saddle to be taken from his slaughtered horse and placed against the trunk of an immense tree, where he was carried and propped up. After lighting his Dutch pipe he continued in a loud voice shouting orders to his men who were falling like autumn leaves. But the old hero had fought his last battle, for his shattered leg was not skillfully treated and he died ten days later, propped up in bed, smoking his pipe and reading his Bible at the thirty-eighth Psalm."

"It was after this battle that the first American flag with stars and stripes was raised," remarked Anson Cary.

"Yes, indeed," replied Hinckley, "though a crude affair it was."

"How so?" asked Eleazer Smith, who, though a good listener, seldom spoke.

"Well, I'll tell you. Not a great while before this battle Congress had adopted the stars and stripes as the National symbol of American liberty. Colonel Willett returned to Fort Stanwix and raised five captured British standards, while over them he raised a hastily made flag to represent the American banner. It was made out of an officer's white shirt, an old blue overcoat, and some strips of red cloth from the petticoat of a soldier's wife. And that was the first American flag with stars and stripes hoisted."

"Well," exclaimed Josiah Hackett, "the English rigermadoons scampered along through mud and mire to get out o' sight of it; but it still waves over our land, and will till time is no more."

"Well said, Josiah" spoke up John Holmes. "We'll take a final sip and go home, the hour is getting late."

The old soldiers, who had enjoyed fighting their battles over, retired, Josiah bringing up the rear, and as he closed the door marched off singing:

"Yankee doodle, ramrods, guns,
Pikes and pistols handy—
We're the true descendant sons
Of Yankee doodle dandy,"

STEPHEN O. RUNYAN was practicing law in Oxford previous to 1799, and continued till his death, which occurred April 23, 1820, at the age of 48. He came from New York and his office stood on Washington Park, at the head of which he resided. It was destroyed by fire in July, 1823. He was distinguished for his charity and benevolence, and his whole life was characterized by a devotion to acts of public munificence. He was popular with the people, and his mind was richly stored with anecdotes, which he was fond of relating. His wife died June 5, 1860, at Cortland, N. Y.

A DISTILLERY was located for many years opposite the residence of Alpha Morse. One dollar in those days would fill a three-gallon keg straight from the worm. Immense quantities of corn were converted into whisky and numerous porkers were fatted on the malt, being kept thereby in a blissful state of booziness from the day they reached the distillery yard until they were dumped into the scalding kettle. Many a boy was sent to the distillery for whisky to be used in refreshing the minister on his yearly calls.

A merchant of great traffic through the world.—SHAKESPEARE.

Captain Samuel Farnham.

Captain Samuel Farnham, born in New London, Conn., December 16, 1775, came to Oxford in 1799 and opened a drug and general merchandise store in a story and a half frame building which stood on the site of William M. Miller's store. He is the first merchant of whom we have any record, though it is probable that General Benjamin Hovey opened a store soon after coming here. Captain Farnham continued the business until his death, which occurred April 20, 1822, at the age of 47. He was associated for two years, from 1807, with Epaphras Miller.

Captain Farnham received his military title from his connection with the first artillery company in town, organized and commanded by him, receiving his commission from Governor Morgan Lewis, who was elected to the governship in 1804.

In 1800 Captain Farnham was united in marriage to Sally, daughter of Henry Balcom, and sister of Francis and Samuel Balcom. Soon after their marriage they went to housekeeping on Clinton street, in a house long afterwards the home of Horace S. Read, which stood on the site of the residence of E. A. Pearsall, where they died.

Mrs. Farnham reared to manhood a family of six sons, and died February 16, 1859, in the 79th year of her age. Two sons, within the same year preceded her to the grave. Four children, Epaphras M., Julia A., Charles E., and Sarah D., died in infancy.

FARNHAM HOUSE, CLINTON STREET (Present Residence of J. L. Rumsey, Columbia Street)



THE OLD FEEDER DAM





OLD McKOON RESIDENCE AND LAW OFFICE
(Site of Residences of Harvey Morton and S. H. Mead)



STAGE HOUSE IN THE SIXTIES
(Now Hotchkiss House)

George Farnham succeeded his father in the mercantile business, and after trading a few years sold his interest to his brother John. In 1841 he removed to New York and became interested in the Chenango Lake Boat Line which transported merchandise to and from New York. He died suddenly in that city on the 3d of February, 1859, in the 59th year of his age. Married Susan, eldest child of Thomas Gibson. Child: Susan Elizabeth Gibson, born in 1826, married Ransom Balcom.

Dr. John P. Farnham after purchasing the mercantile business of his brother George, carried it on some five years when he disposed of it to Dr. Cleveland in 1829, and established a hardware store on the lot now occupied by the residence of Francis G. Clarke. In 1833 he moved to Carbondale, Penn., and for many years practiced his profession, but afterwards embarked in the mercantile and lumber business. He died at Carbondale in February, 1871, and had long been a prominent citizen of that place.

Alexander Farnham died at Honesdale, Penn., April 19, 1858, aged 50.

Frederick W. Farnham made his residence at White Mills, Penn.

Samuel H. Farnham was a life long resident of Oxford and for many years conducted a jeweler's business, which he carried on for a few years, and having purchased a portion of the Fort Hill block, he entered into the grocery and fancy goods line, at the same time carrying on his trade of silversmith. In February, 1855, Mr. Farnham was appointed Canal collector in this town, and in September, 1861, with other members of the Oxford Band left for the seat of war to form part of the Regimental Band of the Anderson Zouaves, but remained but a few months on account of ill health. He was the possessor of an extensive

and interesting cabinet of curiosities, many of which were ancient and valuable, and was also fond of pets, usually having a variety on exhibition at his store. He died July 21, 1887, in the 75th year of his age.

His fame was great in all the land.—LONGFELLOW.

Joseph Walker.

Joseph Walker was born in the year 1796 at Pittsfield, Mass., and in 1817 married Mary Hamilton of Binghamton, coming to Oxford the same year. He engaged in the tannery business with William Mygatt, later entering the boot and shoe business on Navy Island, which he conducted for years. He also owned and worked a farm about half a mile above the village, which he sold to his brother-in-law, Milo Porter. Mr. Walker devoted much time to the study of astronomy and sent to London, England, for two mammoth globes to persue his studies, and later presented them to Oxford Academy. He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and was one of the founders of Oxford Lodge, No. 175, Free & Accepted Masons. He was one of the few who saw Oxford grow from a small hamlet into a beautiful village. Mr. Walker died April 1, 1870. His wife, who was born in 1799, died in 1874 at Clayton, Mich. Their only child, Mary, married May 15, 1855, Jacob Rheinwald of Oxford, who with Mr. Walker at one time conducted a brewery in the rear of Mr. Walker's residence, which stood on the site of the Dr. Douglas' residence on Washington Park. In 1876, they moved to Bouckville, Madison county, where they have since resided.

Who'er has travell'd life's dull round,
Where'er his stages may have been,
May sigh to think he still has found
The warmest welcome at an inn.—SHENSTONE.

Erastus Perkins.

Erastus Perkins, born January 18, 1778, was the eldest child of Captain Erastus and Anna (Glover) Perkins of Norwich, Conn., where he spent his early life. In 1799 he came to Oxford, then a two weeks' journey, in company with his wife, Abigail Stephens, whose father, Alvin Stephens, subsequently lived on the farm now owned and occupied by Nathan Pendleton. Mr. Perkins remained in Oxford one season and then went to Deposit, N. Y., where he built the first frame house in that town. His business there was lumbering and rafting, but the population was too rough to suit him and he returned to Oxford in 1801, where his life was chiefly spent in mercantile pursuits. Soon after his return he built the Park Hotel on the east side of the river, which he kept till 1822. It was afterwards kept by his brother, Captain James Perkins to 1837, and then by his son, Alvin S., as late as 1850. The hotel during the following years underwent several changes until about 1900, when it was newly remodled and enlarged. On the night of October 28, 1903, it was so badly damaged by fire that it ceased to be a hotel.

The earliest town meeting noted in the "Book of the Town Clerk" for 1814, was held at the house of Erastus Perkins. In 1815, '16 and '18, he was one of the seven pound keepers and fence viewers, "their yards to be the pounds." In 1821, '22 and '23 he was one of three commissioners of common schools. In 1822 he built a house and it was

"voted that the next Town Meeting be held at the new Dwelling House of Erastus Perkins." In 1831 he was again commissioner of schools. In 1814 he subscribed $10 to Rev. William Lacey's salary as rector. In 1815 he subscribed $50 to the first building of St. Paul's church in the center of Fort Hill Square, and August 16, of that year, he with John Tracy were appointed building committee of said building. February 28, 1850, he was elected senior warden in place of Austin Hyde, deceased. He had charge of the VanWagenen burial ground almost to the time of his death. A man of fine character, interested in church and school, liberal in proportion to his means, and in politics a Whig. Mr. Perkins died May 30, 1852. His first wife, Abigail Stephens, died January 31, 1815, aged 34. His second wife was the Widow Ursula Allen of Connecticut, who died January 2, 1821, aged 42. She had two children by her first husband, the Hon. John W. Allen, and the wife of Judge Andrews of Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Perkins third wife was Agnes VanWagenen, daughter of Gerrit H. and Sarah (Brinckerhoff) VanWagenen of Oxford, who died February 13, 1868, aged 80. Children by first wife: ERASTUS S., died March 12, 1882, in Houston, Tex., aged 70; married Eunice Butler, who died June 7, 1861, in Houston; ALVIN S., died October 7, 1872, in Houston, aged 64; married Frances, daughter of Jabez Robinson of South Oxford, and moved to Houston in 1857, where she died of yellow fever October 19, 1859; LEONARD S., married Harriet Bennett, and died in Houston October 22, 1859; GURDON, died April 15, 1873 in Oxford, aged 61; married Frances A. Squires; ANN MARIA, married Colonel Joseph Juliand of Greene; died June 1, 1860, in Greene, aged 56; JANE E., married Dr. Austin Rouse of Oxford.

Children by third wife: SARAH A., born August 31,

1824, in Oxford; married May 19, 1852, James W. Glover of Oxford; FRANCES B., born October 19, 1827, in Oxford; married November 30, 1849, Andrew J. Hull of Oxford; GERRIT HENRY, born June 24, 1826, at Oxford; married June 26, 1856, Frances Willcox of Honesdale, Pa.

Gerrit Henry Perkins, died March 26, 1900, in New York city. On May 8, 1854, soon after his father's death, Mr. Perkins became a vestryman of St. Paul's church, Oxford, and at a subsequent meeting was elected clerk, which position he held till June, 1890. He received his education at Oxford Academy, after which he read law in the office of Henry R. Mygatt and was admitted to the bar, practicing but a few years. About 1852 he went into partnership with Henry L. Miller in a general mercantile business in the store now occupied by William M. Miller. After a period of nearly two years they removed to the Fort Hill building, then vacated by the firm of Chapman & Thorp. A number of years later they removed to the store first occupied by them on LaFayette square. The firm was changed to Miller, Perkins & Co. upon admission of William M. Miller, and so continued till 1890. Upon the organization of the Chenango Mutual Life Insurance company in 1881, he was elected president and took out the first policy of the company, holding the office till the time he left Oxford. Mr. Perkins was a member of Oxford Lodge, No. 175, F. & A. M., and for many years trustee of the same. Also one of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Oxford; trustee of Oxford Academy for a long term of years, and trustee of village and president of the board. He moved from Oxford in 1890 and entered into the brokerage and insurance business in New York city, where he remained till the time of his death. Children, all born in Oxford:

ROBERT WALTON, born September 29, 1861; died March

25, 1891, in Denver, Col.; married July 25, 1888, Lucy Justice in Oxford. Child: Mildred. SARAH VAN WAGENEN; married September 9, 1890, in Oxford, Frank Forester Bruce of Cleveland, Ohio. Children: Alice and ——. ALICE M., married June 23, 1896, in New York city, Dr. Luzerne Coville of Ithaca. Child: Perkins. AGNES F., unmarried.

HORACE S. READ, son of Silas Read of Smithville Flats, was born in 1817. Mr. Read succeeded his father in the mercantile business, which he carried on for a few years, in the meantime he was postmaster four years. In 1851 was elected County Clerk, at the expiration of the term came to Oxford in 1854 and entered into the drug business with James H. Fox, which partnership was dissolved in 1863, Mr. Read retiring in 1868. He was a man of pleasing address and social disposition. Mr. Read married Flora Grant of Smithville Flats, now deceased. He died January 23, 1886, aged 69.

Their children were: VIRGIL C., married in Michigan; F. LOUISE, married Edward Bradley.

PETER B. GARNSEY, now spelled Guernsey, was born in New Lebanon, N. Y. He studied law in the office of Chancellor Walworth and was admitted as an attorney in 1798, and as a counsellor in 1800. His wife was Mary Speirs, whom he married at New Lebanon, on Christmas Day, 1797, by whom he had four children. Soon after his marriage he came to Oxford where he engaged in the practice of his profession until about 1800, when he removed to Norwich. He, with Nathaniel King, represented Chenango County in the State Assembly in 1800.

Better the rudest work that tells a story or records a fact, than the richest without meaning.—RUSKIN.

Theodore Burr.

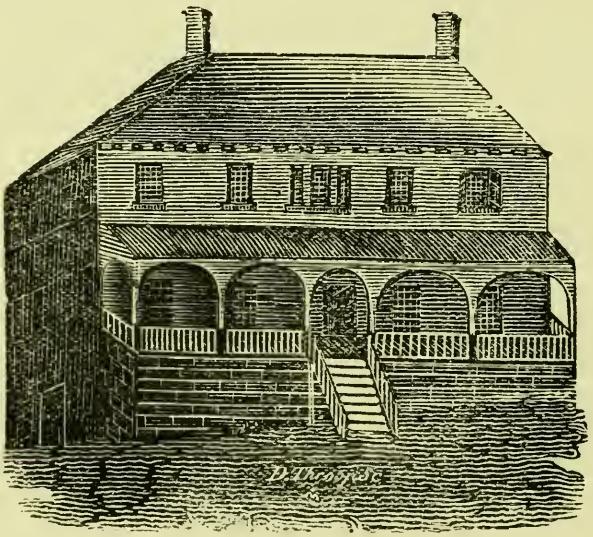
Theodore Burr who came in 1793, built the first bridge in this place in 1800, the mill now owned by Fletcher & Corbin, the dam which still stands, and the building now occupied by the Memorial Library at an early date. He patented and built the first arch bridge across the Susquehanna, and at that time was the most distinguished architect of bridges in the country. At that early day hardly a bridge crossed the Susquehanna from Binghamton to Baltimore that he did not build, and even now at Harrisburg one stands with his name cut in one of the stones dated 1813. In April, 1818, he advertised in the Oxford Gazette, that he had "devoted eighteen years of his life to the theory and practice of bridge building exclusively, during which time he had built forty-five bridges of various magnitude, with arches from 60 to 367 feet span."

Mr. Burr lived in Oxford several years and then removed with his family to Northumberland, Pa., where he and his wife died. Their children were: HENRY, GEORGE, CHARLES, MARILLA, PHILA, who married Silas Marsh, a merchant in Oxford from 1816 to 1826; ASENATH, married Simon G. Throop; AMANDA, married January 18, 1816, Charles Catlin of Wilkesbarre Pa. All except Asenath, removed with their parents to Pennsylvania.

Gloom is upon thy lonely hearth,
Oh, silent house! once filled with mirth;
Sorrow is in the breezy sound
Of thy tall poplars whispering round.—HEMANS.

John Rathbone.

John Rathbone, brother of Gen. Ransom Rathbone, came from Oswego soon after the war of 1812, opened a store which he conducted some ten years, and then removed to a farm in Cortland county, not being successful in business here. He built on the site of the residence now occupied by S. H. Mead, a large and elegant mansion for those days which later became known as the "McKoon house," a portion of which still stands in the lane in rear of Mr. Mead's house. The house fronted the east instead of the street, and was of such prominence that it was made the subject of a wood cut, the original of which is given below:



The modern method of illustrating, fifty or sixty years later, gives, on another page, a finer view of the old "mansion." It was after Mr. Rathbone's time occupied by Peter Sken. Smith, who laid out a great deal of money on it, and later by Judge McKoon, who had a little stone law office on the lot in which later a select school was conducted. After Judge McKoon disposed of the house it sheltered tenants by the score. Could the old "mansion" tell the tales and changes that have occurred since its erection the Annals of the town would indeed be deeply interesting. In 1872, Counsellor Horace Packer purchased the property, made two houses of the one and removed them to the rear of the lot.

IN A HISTORY of the town of Sangerfield, the following of local interest appears:

"On the 30th day of March, 1801, an act was passed by the state legislature to open and improve a certain road from the dwelling house of Benj. Wilson, in the town of Oxford, Chenango county, in the nearest and most direct route that "circumstances would admit of," through the towns of Norwich, Sherburne, Hamilton, Sangerfield and Paris, to intersect the Genesee turnpike, near the house of Jedediah Sanger, in Whitestown. Three thousand shares were subscribed for at $20 each, making a capital of $60,000. Amos Muzzy of the Huddle, was one of the two directors in the town, and David Norton at the Centre the other—both tavern keepers. It was at first expected that the road when it reached Sangerfield, would run through the Centre on the east side of the swamp, because it was really the nearest, most direct and level route through it; but Mr. Montgomery, an active and energetic settler of much wealth and influence, lived and had a tavern on the road starting from the east part of the Huddle and running westerly two or three miles out of the way which was already made. This passed by the village stores, was handy to the taverns of Messrs. Muzzy and himself, and although leaving David Norton out in the cold, would be on the whole very fine for the stronger parties concerned in the new turnpike. Of course these circumstances and the superior influence and power behind, clearly admitting of no other route, the road was opened and gates erected on the longer, hillier and poorer one. It had been used only a year or two as a turnpike, when the entire line was thrown up and surrendered to the town as a failure. Nobody would travel on it and David Norton was pleased. It is still often referred to in conveyances describing land on its line, as the "Oxford and Chenango turnpike, formerly so called."

How still the morning of the hallow'd day!
Mute is the voice of rural labour, hush'd.—GRAHAME.

Free Will Baptist Church.

The Free Will Baptist church of Oxford, in the south east part of the town, was organized April 15, 1848, by Elder Cyrus Steere of McDonough. The first baptisms were on April 16, 1848, when the following persons mere baptized into membership: Henry Mead, Henry Hackett, Julia Hackett, Squire Rathbon, Sally Rathbon, Ethan R. Clarke, Darwin A. Collier, Giles Manwarring and Samuel Sannick; these together with Deacon JosephOgden, Joshua B. Stone and wife, Asa W. Rhodes, who was the first church clerk, Samuel M. Kinney, Derrick Race and Harriet Race, Samuel Manwarring, James Lowe and Nancy Morehouse were the first members.

On May 20th, of the same year the First Free Will Baptist church of Guilford, offered themselves as a body to unite with the Oxford church and were received into membership. The first settled pastor was the Rev. Noah D. Wilkins, who commenced his pastorate in 1849. The church services were held in the school house of District No. 4, (the Miller district), until 1855, when they were held in the school house of District No. 18, (the Carhart District).

On the fifth Sunday in June, 1855, the first church edifice was dedicated; the Rev. Daniel McKoon preaching the dedication sermon.

The first pastor after the church was erected was the Rev. Ethan R. Clarke.

Many of the old New England customs were enforced in this church during its early history, such as a committee to visit those who were absent from church more than a limited number of Sundays in succession, also to see that each member did not deviate from the rules of the church.

Much of the inside wood work of the building was basswood, and from that fact the edifice was known as the "Basswood church." The church was totally destroyed by fire February 5, 1874. A singing school was held in the evening, which closed at nine o'clock, and it was supposed the fire which was discovered at midnight, originated from the stove. The organ, clock, chandelier and other fixtures were removed. There was an insurance of $1,000 on the property. Within a week steps were taken to rebuild and the present building was erected during the following summer and dedicated on December 12, 1874, the sermon being preached by the Rev. Dr. G. H. Ball of Buffalo, afterwards founder and president of Keuka College.

In December, 1879, Sarah Gibson, widow of Robert Gibson, deeded to the trustees of the church the house, now used as a parsonage, and lot containing twelve and one-half acres of land, valued at $1,000.

In 1889, the church received a legacy of three hundred dollars from Mrs. Mary A. Moore. This church still keeps up its organization.

On October 19, 1904, the church was again threatened by fire. Dry bush and leaves had caught fire and spreading reached the church, but the timely discovery and help at hand subdued the flames after damages to the amount of $25, had been done to the edifice.

A perfect Woman, nobly planned
To warn, to comfort, and command.
—WORDSWORTH.

"Aunt Patty" Dailey.

"Aunt Patty" Dailey was born in the town of Brookline, Vt., on the 17th of March, 1784, "St. Patrick's day at six o'clock in the morning," as she used to say. In January, 1809, she married John Church, who came from Great Barrington, Mass., and settled on the Andrew McNeil farm, now owned and occupied by Mrs. Alice McCall. His first wife, whom he married in Massachusetts, was a Hollenbeck, by whom he had seven children; his second wife, mentioned above, was Patty Thayer, by whom he had two children, Erastus and William. Mr. Church died October 23, 1825, aged 63. He had been a prosperous farmer, and after his death "Aunt Patty" deeded the farm to her son William, which was unfortunate, as he was not successful, and finally lost the place. On Christmas Day, 1827, "Aunt Patty" married John Dailey.

In 1795, when Mrs. Dailey was eleven years of age, her father came with his family from Vermont and settled upon the present site of the village of Bainbridge; which, as she described it, was a "huckleberry plain with but one house upon it." Deer were plenty, and bears were numerous. "Wolves," she said, "would howl enough to make the hair rise on a body's head." She taught school there in 1802, and was the first teacher in Sidney. When she came to Oxford the old building was still standing,

which was erected upon the site of the old fort, where the Baptist church now stands. At that time there was no church here and hardly enough dwellings to call it a village. Said "Aunt Patty" "Oxford was a very thickly wooded country. As you came in sight of the village from the east, the first house on the right side of the road and next above the house of Patrick Hogan, for many years the tavern stand of William Bush, was a log house occupied by Walter Simmons. On the farm of James Burke, Priest Camp, a Presbyterian minister, once lived. Where stood the David Bixby house (now removed) was a frame house owned and occupied by Levi Sherwood. Next to that, but on the opposite side of the road and much further down, was the house of Uri Tracy, a framed dwelling. The nearest house to that, on the same side of the street, was a dwelling built by St. George Tolbud Perry; but the building burned down and the Van Wagenen house stands on the site of the one burned (now occupied by Mrs. L. Bolles). Across the road, where Charles W. Brown now resides, was the house so familiar to all as the home of Dr. Perez Packer, but built by, and then occupied by, Nathaniel Locke. Next, on the west side of the road, was the old one-story dwelling, which was torn down to make room for Wm. H. Van Wagenen's house (the late residence of Dr. Geo. Douglas). This same old building, the first frame house in the village, was erected in the year 1794 and used as an academy. Between this building and the Henry R. Mygatt house once stood two dwellings: one was occupied by Harry Ludlow, and the other stood on the very spot where the late Mrs. Sarah Van Wagenen lived (now residence of Mrs. Susan E. Curtis). A house once occupied by Stephen O. Runyan, was moved by Stephen Greene, to whom it was sold, to Greene Street. Upon the ground from which

the building was taken, John Tracy erected the house known so well, now owned and occupied by John R. Van Wagenen."

During her life "Aunt Patty" witnessed wonderful changes wrought from the wilderness. From a score of poor tenements, with their inhabitants struggling against poverty, she had seen Oxford rise to a beautiful, thriving, wealthy village. The latter years of her life she passed in widowhood and lived with friends and relatives, where she was always welcome; residing winters with nieces in Pennsylvania, returning summers to her old home in Oxford. Wherever she went she was ever ready to lend a helping hand in spinning, knitting, or sewing. She never had a headache, to her freedom from which she attributed the rare preservation of her sight, hearing, and memory. She had a remarkable memory, and could tell the locality and general appearance of every house that was in Oxford when she came here in 1809. "Aunt Patty" was a frequent and ever welcome visitor at the bedside of the sick, and is kept in sweet remembrance by those who have been to the "dark brink" and returned, and has also a bright record with those who have "gone before." She died at Hooper's Valley, N. Y., Nov. 19, 1882, in the 99th year of her age.

ENOS WRIGHT, a native of Connecticut, was among the first settlers of Oxford. He was energetic, persevering, and industrious, enduring hardships incident to the pioneer of this country, he aided in no small degree in converting the rude forest into fertile fields of luxury and abundance. He led an honest and examplary life and his faith was strong in the Christian religion. He died April 14, 1847, aged 79.

A heart to resolve, a head to contrive, and a hand to execute.
—Gibbon.

Abijah Lobdell, Jr.

Abijah Lobdell, Jr., was born in Johnstown, N. Y., of an old Revolutionary family. After clerking in Albany he came to Oxford in 1808 and opened a general store. In 1810 he married Sally Burghardt, who died January 28, 1861, aged 69. The first Episcopal service in town was held in their house. Mr. Lobdell was one of the first vestrymen of St. Paul's church, and also a trustee of Oxford Academy. His brother John was his partner here, and in 1812 went on to Buffalo with goods, which were destroyed when that city was burned, barely escaping with his life. He and a companion were six weeks coming back through the almost unbroken forests, following a trail and marked trees. Later John Lobdell went to New York, read law, and finally located in Louisiana, while his brother removed with his family to Utica and conducted a flourishing drug business in the "Checkered Store" on Genesee Street, still an old landmark and now used for a tobacco warehouse. In 1835, his health failing him, the family returned to Oxford and purchased a farm a mile below the village, which is still owned by his youngest daughter and only grandchild. Children:

Mary Ann, died unmarried.

Jane Eliza, married John F. Hopkins.

Sarah Maria, married George W. Godfrey. Child: Augusta C.

James Henry, died unmarried.

Helen M., only survivor of the family, still resides in Oxford.

What! mothers from their children riven!
What! God's own image bought and sold!
Americans to market driven,
And bartered as the brute for gold!
—WHITTIER.

"Aunt Phillis" Williams.

"Aunt Phillis" Williams, who was born a slave on July 4, 1772, at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and died at Union, N. Y., February 16, 1883, in her 111th year, led an eventful life which dated back to the days of the Revolution. She was owned by Gerrit Storms of Poughkeepsie until she reached the age of 41, and had a husband and five children. The husband bought his own and eldest son's freedom, but both were lost at sea while endeavoring to earn money to buy "Aunt Phillis'" and the rest of the children's time. About this time she, with her infant daughter, Dinah, with other slaves, was taken from Poughkeepsie by her master, brought to Oxford, sold at auction, and bid in by Judge Uri Tracy. The infant Dinah went with the slave, served in bondage, and, when strong and robust, worked in the fields like a man, remaining with Judge Tracy until the State abolished slavery in 1827. She married a man named Cruzer at Union, and died November 4, 1901, aged 96. Phillis, in later years, lived with different families in town until she became blind, and then removed to Union to end her days with her daughter. She often related that General Washington stopped over night at the residence of her master, Gerritt Storms, in Poughkeepsie, and that the tories robbed her master's house of money and valuables, after which they took

Storms out and hung him to a tree, leaving him to die. His mistress cut him down with a jackknife and saved his life. She also remembered of a man on horseback giving warning of the advance of the British soldiers, and of her going with her mistress to the bank of a creek and burying their silverware, with what little money they had.

THE FOLLOWING shows that the subject of education was not wholly neglected in the early days of the town:

To the Commissioners to Superintend the schools in the Town of Oxford in the County of Tioga.

This certifies that in division of the moneys appropriated for the support of schools to the several Towns in the County payable to your Order as followeth (Viz.) the sum of thirty-five pounds one Shilling and Six pence as soon as the same may be receiv'd from the State Treasurer and the further sum of twenty Six pounds eight shillings and one penny by the first day of April next.

Dated at Union, 4th June, 1796.

Reuben Kirby, John Welch, Ephraim Fitch, Elijah Burk, Lodawick Light, Supervisors for Tioga County.

A LADY, who resided on Clinton Street for many years, employed a faithful colored maid addicted to use of words and expressions, the definition of which she did not understand. The first day of employment, after arranging the dinner table, she called the mistress to inspect it, saying: "Mrs. G., please look over the table, I don't know whether it is *non compos mentis* or not." A few days later, wanting a small piece of linen cloth, she inquired: "Mrs. G., please can I peruse your rag bag?"

He has been bred i' the wars.—SHAKESPEARE.

Reuben Doty

The first of the name of Doty in America was Edward Doty, also recorded as "Doten." Edward was a passenger on "The Mayflower," and married, in 1634, Faith Clarke at Plymouth, Mass., where he died in 1655. "He left a comfortable estate and nine children, six sons and three daughters."

Warren Doty, a descendant of Edward, born April 23, 1768; died February 13, 1838. Sarah, his wife, born May 13, 1772; died July 30, 1862. Place of birth and death of either not known.

Reuben Doty, the eldest of the five children of Warren and Sarah Doty, was born November 5, 1792, and died April 26, 1878, in Oxford. He married Almira Willoughby, of Oxford, born January 8, 1798; died March 13, 1874, in Oxford. Mr. Doty was a cooper by trade, and, during the War of 1812, served his country, for which he was pensioned. Children:

CHARLES W., born June 11, 1819; died May 12, 1868; married Eunice Cooper.

WILLIAM R., born September 28, 1822; died September 4, 1871; married Alzada Bowers.

NANCY M., born November 1, 1823; died August 6, 1901; married (1) John Hubbard; married (2) Henry S. Fraser.

WILLARD H., born October 20, 1825; died May 19, 1893, in Cooperstown, where he married.

SARAH ANN, born February 15, 1828; died in childhood.

FRANCIS H., born June 2, 1831; died in childhood.

LOUISA M., born January 5, 1833; died in childhood.

No story is the same to use after the lapse of time; or rather, we who read it are no longer the same interpreters.—GEORGE ELIOT.

Man in Homespun.

One day during the '20's a stranger drove to the tavern on the west side in this village. He had a load of hides, was dressed in coarse homespun and not very prepossessing in appearance. As the landlord met him at the door he inquired:

"Have you accommodation for my team and dinner for me?"

"Well, it is past our dinner hour," replied the landlord, "and we have nothing warm. But put out your team and I'll step into the kitchen and see what we can do."

The stranger drove to the barn and mine host went in search of the cook, to whom he said:

"A stranger, poorly dressed, has just drove in and wants dinner. Don't stop to warm anything up, but just clear off a place on the table and let him eat here."

"It won't take no time to start the fire again," was the reply. "And, whether he is poor or rich, any man who has driven far to-day needs a warm meal. I'll get it in a very short time, and he can eat in the dining-room."

"No," said the landlord, "he probably hasn't much money and a cold meal will serve him as well as any. Don't bother about the dining-room, let him eat here."

The cook, though demurring, hastily arranged the meal as directed, and served to the stranger upon his return from the barn. It was wholesome and heartily partaken

of without any word of comment. Upon completing his dinner the man in homespun went to the barroom door and called the landlord outside. Taking a large roll of bills of high denomination from his pocket, he said:

"I'll now pay my score. I always make it a practice when traveling to show my money as little as possible, especially in a barroom among strangers. Though you know me not, you probably have heard of me, I am Mr. Pratt of Sherburne, and, having business in Oxford, thought it was useless to send my man with the hides when I had to come the same way. I keep these clothes to wear when I leave home with a large sum of money, for I am not so apt to be noticed by unprincipled persons, your meal, though cold, has satisfied me."

The landlord, through embarrassment, exclaimed: "Why, Mr. Pratt, if you had only mentioned your name before——"

Mr. Pratt interrupted by saying: "Now, no apology is necessary. Clothes don't always determine the man. I have better ones, but preferred to wear homespun for the reason I have already stated. I shall remain here over night, and take out your pay from this bill."

The landlord replied: "Mr. Pratt, I am very glad to be your host, and hereafter I shall not enter hastily in judgment upon future strangers who enter my door. The best the house affords shall be yours during your sojourn with me, and upon any future visits you may choose to make our town. The lesson I have learned this day will never be forgotten."

Mr. Pratt was hospitally cared for during the remainder of his stay, and returned home the following morning with a better opinion of the landlord than he had on his arrival.

And though the warrior's sun has set,
It's light shall linger round us yet,—
Bright, radiant, blest.
—LONGFELLOW.

Hezekiah Brockett.

Hezekiah Brockett was born in 1757 in Connecticut. In 1776 he was enrolled in the Continental army, and was one of the few that followed the bold and adventurous "Mad Anthony" Wayne in 1779 up the heights of Stony Point on the Hudson. He was one of the honest, earnest, God-fearing, hard-working forefathers, with the axe in one hand and the rifle in the other, who made the long, lonely journeys toward the setting sun, with the comforts and many of the necessities of civilization left far behind. The old veteran died April 11, 1851, in Oxford, at the age of 94, and was buried with military honors. The stars and stripes, which in life he loved so well, shrouded his coffin; the booming cannon echoed from hill to hill as his bier passed along; military with glittering muskets and muffled drums formed a guard of honor to the cemetery. Volleys of musketry were fired over his grave, and the old veteran was left to sleep peacefully, waiting the last great roll call.

VILLAGE ILLUMINATED.—On the 1st of March, 1815, the village was illuminated in the evening on the return of peace with England. William M. Price delivered an oration on the occasion in the Academy.

When we laughed round the corn-heap with hearts all in tune,
Our chair a broad pumpkin—our lantern the moon.
—WHITTIER.

Husking and Paring Bees.

One of the few pleasures of our forefathers was the husking bee, which occurred in the fall of the year, an event looked forward to and long remembered when past. The corn having been gathered into the barn and sheds in great piles, neighbors and friends, sometimes to the number of a hundred, gathered by invitation in the evening, husking frequently three or four hundred bushels of corn. When red ears of corn were discovered the finder, whether male or female, was entitled to a kiss, which often created much merriment. Tin lanterns hung here and there furnished the light for the occasion. The chief course of the supper served was pumpkin pie, big fat ones in all their golden glory.

The principal method of preserving apples was by drying. They were first pared, and quartered, then strung, and placed upon racks in the kitchen to remain until dry. This work made another evening of fun and frolic in the shape of a paring bee. When the company had assembled all sorts of devices were used in preparing the fruits and large quantities of apples would be placed upon the drying racks at one of these gatherings. Seeds of the apple were placed upon the hot bricks of the old fireplace, properly named, and eagerly watched until they snapped for either an ill or good omen. An unbroken paring was waved three times around the head then dropped to the floor, and the letter it formed was the

first in the name of the future wife or husband. At the close of the work a substantial supper, one of the old time kind would follow, and often games and dancing ended the event. At the close of one of these bees on the East hill, as the boys and girls were returning through a piece of woods to their homes, a mischievious neighbor secreted himself with his dog near their path. As they approached he caused the dog to howl and the girls, as well as the boys, hastily took to the trees. After a few moments some of the bolder ones descended, where they found one of the boys, more timid than the rest, sitting on the ground with his feet and arms around the trunk of a tree, supposing himself in the branches safe from danger. His comical appearance brought on such a hearty laugh that all thoughts of fear were driven from their minds.

THE ENGINE WAS HOUSED.—One summer's day in 1823, during the building of the river bridge by Jonathan Baldwin and Thomas Brown, Daniel Shumway, foreman of the fire company, had the hand engine taken to the river for trial and placed it near where the Fort Hill mill now stands. Mr. Shumway, who held the pipe, threw water on Mr. Brown, who was on one of the bridge abutments, where he could not readily escape. This act aroused the ire of Mr. Baldwin, well known for his quaint expressions and terrible wrath when provoked, who shouldered a broadax and confronting the foreman, exclaimed: "By ——, Daniel Shumway, you let a drop of water fall on the hem of my garment and every man in town will have an engine!" Mr. Shumway threw no more water that day and the engine was immediately housed.

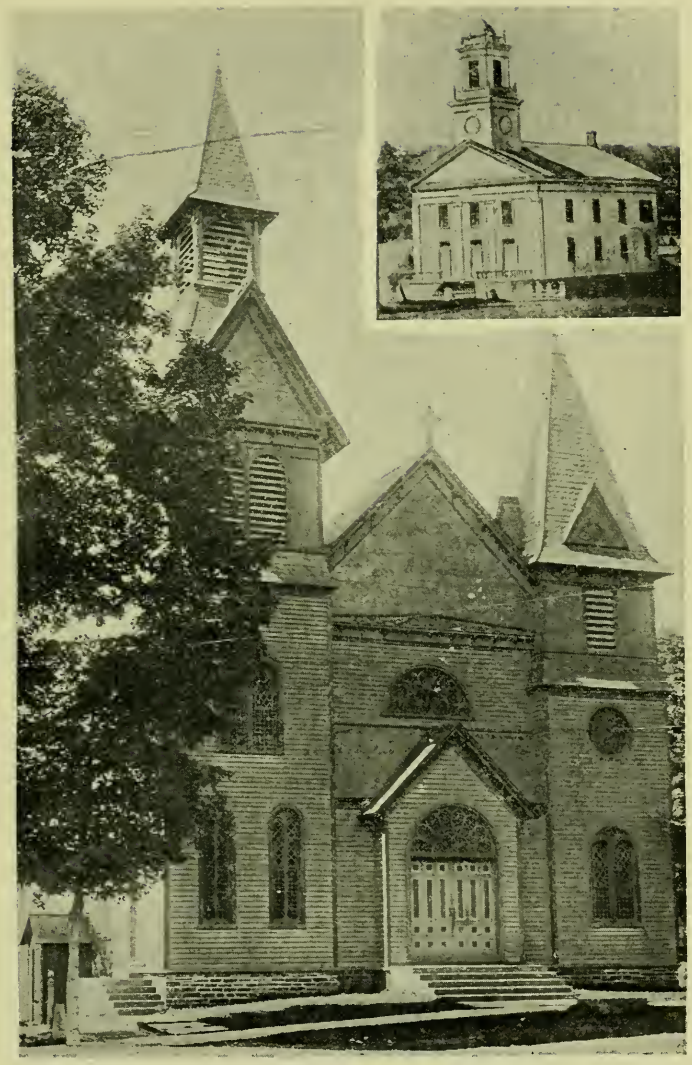
See the Gospel Church secure,
And founded on a Rock!
All her promises are sure;
Her bulwarks who can shock?
—CHARLES WESLEY.

Methodist Episcopal Church.

Methodism in Oxford sprung up as it did everywhere in those early days, probably through the efforts of the circuit rider. As near as can be learned its beginning in Oxford dates about the year 1815, and that two years later an organization was effected in what is now known as the VanWagenen barn, and the building still remains on the premises of Mrs. Lemuel Bolles on Albany street. In this building, and at the homes of the members of the society, they gathered for worship until the society was incorporporated, September 24, 1831. The church records contain the following reference to the organization at that time.

"The male persons of full age belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church in the village of Oxford met at the Academy in said village, where they steadily attended for divine worship, . . . for the purpose of electing nine discreet persons as trustees, to take charge of the estate and property of the said church and to transact all affairs relative to the temporalities thereof."

The preacher in charge, Rev. James Atwell, presided at the meeting, and was assisted by William E. Chapman. Bliss Willoughby, Nathaniel Willcox, Caleb Sebury, Everett Judson, Gardner B. Lewis, Elias Widger, William E. Chapman, George H. King, and Daniel Dudley were elected trustees.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

VIEW OF CHURCH IN 1870 AT THE TOP

Shortly after they purchased the old Academy building on the corner of Merchant's (street) Row and Greene street, long since destroyed by fire. They worshipped there until 1841, when the present edifice was erected under the pastorate of Rev. William H. Pearne, brother of Mr. B. M. Pearne of this village. Its cost was approximately $3500. The corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies on June 24th of that year, and the church was formally dedicated to the service of Almighty God January 27, 1842.

The church building still stands, though many times remodeled. The edifice was repaired and improved under the pastorate of Rev. Hiram Gee, in 1856; also during the pastorate of Rev. S. F. Brown, in 1872, when over $1100 was expended; in 1880, under the pastorate of Rev. L. W. Peck, D. D., when the basement and front was remodeled. The front elevated entrance was removed and an inside vestibule built, with steps at either side leading to the auditorium. The cost at this time was about $1100. In 1886-7 the church was entirely remodeled. The exterior was modernized by the removal of the steeple and the erection of a spire and tower. The front entrance was made convenient and artistic. A side entrance was also made on the east side, through the east tower. The old galleries were removed from the interior, and the church otherwise re-arranged as it is to-day. The whole effect was to make it more convenient and to greatly improve the architectural beauty.

The beautiful cathedral glass windows are all memorials of those who have been identified with Oxford Methodism. They were made from designs specially made for this church. Entering the auditorium at the left the first window bears the name of Phebe A. Roome and Margaret Roome, the gift of Mr. Henry C. Roome of New York, in memory of his mother and sister. The next window was

provided by Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Mosier, and in addition to their own names it bears the names of two deceased sons. Since that time Mrs. Mosier has gone to her Heavenly home. The next bears the inscription, "In loving memory of Bliss Willoughby and his descendants," and was provided by Mr. W. D. Willoughby of Oxford. The last on the east side was given by Mr. George P. York of Westfield, N. Y., in memory of his grandparents, "Isaac J. Stratton and Rachel, his wife." Passing across the room and returning toward the door, the first window is the gift of Mr. Charles B. Dudley of Altoona, Pa., in honor of his parents, Daniel and Maranda Dudley. The next bears the names of John and Mary E. Lord, and was the gift of Mrs. Irene Lord of Oxford. The next is a husband's tribute to the memory of his departed wife, and was the gift of Mr. George Rector of Blue Earth City, Minn., and bears the name of Sarah Rector. The last is in memory of the sainted colored sister, known as Aunt Sally Sannick. It was provided for by the income of a bequest she made to the trustees of the society.

What life was in the early days of the society is best described by Sister Eliza P. Eaton, the oldest member in both actual years of membership as well as age. Mrs. Eaton is now about eighty-eight years of age, but her memory retains a strong grasp upon the events relating to the church in the period when she joined, about 1838. She said the Methodist revival meetings were usually dubbed "the crazy meetings." Owing to the strong antipathy her friends had to these meetings, she and her friends would steal into them. In this way she became converted and finally joined the church. In those days there were times of trouble with the ministers. One instance was that of Rev. John Bailey, who while preacher in charge of this church was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in Greene.

Sectarian lines were very closely drawn in those days, and the discovery that the pastor was sureptitiously preparing for the Protestant Episcopal ministry caused a sensation. He was speedily discharged from his duties on the advice of Rev. Leonard Bowdish, pastor of the church at Norwich. Another pastor had certain eccentricities, which at times gave the female members of the congregation much concern.

One of the ablest men who had presided over the church was Rev. William Wyatt, pastor in 1847. Rev. Mr. Wyatt, in his memoirs, discourses interestingly about his experiences in Oxford. The most important incident was the conversion of Judge McKoon. The incident is best related in Mr. Wyatt's own words:

"Judge McKoon, one of the best and most prominent lawyers in the place, had formerly attended the Episcopal Church, of which his wife was a member. He now came to our church. One evening after preaching we gave an invitation to any who wanted religion to come to the altar for prayers. Five or six little boys came out and occupied the seat; no one else came. The Judge was in the congregation and deeply penitent. He had made up his mind to go forward that night and seek the Lord, but when he saw those little children take the place his resolution well nigh failed him. It was a matter of surprise and talk among all the people that he should leave the Episcopalians and join himself to the Methodists; it drew the attention of the whole community. He said to himself: 'An ex-judge of the county, where I have presided for a long time, a prominent lawyer at the bar, a man full fifty years old, and go forward and seek God with those little children.' This caused a great struggle. He had tried many causes, given judgment in intricate and difficult cases, but a case so difficult, yet so important in its findings and issues had never been brought before him. He stood on trial before the bar

of his own conscience. It was to him not a matter of dollars and cents to be estimated by the usual standard of loss and gain, but a matter of life and death. . . . Judge McKoon went forward that night, found the Lord, and became a power in the church."

Mr. Wyatt, in his book, referred to Oxford as a village with one hundred and seventy dwellings, but they were eastern people brought up in the land of steady habits and all taught to go to church, which most of them did. The churches were all filled every Lord's day with a very intelligent and well disposed people. He also preached at a place called "South Woods" (now South Oxford, or the Basswood Meeting House), and at "Norwich Hill" (now called North Guilford). Several young men were sent out from this church to preach the gospel, among whom were Otis Knight and Orville Mead, the latter being a grandson of Everett Judson, one of the first trustees of the church.

The following list includes all the pastors of the church since 1827: Henry Peck, 1828; —— Mansfield, 1829; John Snyder, 1830; James Atwell, 1831; William Bowdish and ——Stowell, 1832; Henry Halstead, who was the first stationed pastor, 1833-4; John Bailey, 1835; Lyman Sperry, 1836-7; George Harmon, an eccentric yet powerful man, 1838-9; Jared C. Ransom, a great revivalist in his day, 1839-40; William H. Pearne, D. D., 1841-2; Lyman Sperry, 1843-4; William Bixby, 1844-5; L. L. Knox, 1846; William Wyatt, 1847-8; Bostwick Hawley, D. D., 1849; Zechariah Paddock, D. D., 1850; Solon Stocking, 1851-2; A. S. Graves, 1852-3; J. T. Wright, 1854; Hiram Gee, 1855-6; L. H. Stanley, 1857; A. T. Mattison, 1858-60; William R. Cobb, 1860-1; Dwight Williams, 1862-3; William C. Bowen, 1864-5; William G. Queal, 1866-7; T. P. Halstead, son of Henry Halstead, a former pastor, 1868-70; S. F. Brown, 1871-2; F. L. Hiller, 1873; H. V. Talbot, 1874-6; J. K. Peck,

A. B., 1876-8; S. C. Fulton, Ph. B., 1878-9; L. W. Peck, D. D., 1880-2; J. W. Mevis, 1883-5; A. W. Cooper, 1886-91; William G. Simpson, William C. Frisbie, A. H. Littell, Henry Kilpatrick, I. N. Shipman, and Frederick A. Lendrum have been pastors since 1891, in the order named.

The church benefited from time to time from several bequests, from those who had prized it as a church home, and desired to perpetuate its power and influence.

Perhaps it would not be amiss to insert here a reference to the pure life and holy character of the colored sister, Aunt Sally Sannick. Although a former slave, she was one of the most devout and self-sacrificing members. She was one of the earliest members and died in 1882.

JOHN HARRIS, formerly a sea captain, was an early resident of Norwich, and it was he who surveyed the road from Oxford to Sherburne.

Kind reader! take your choice to cry or laugh.
—Byron.

Memorial Verses.

An old custom in which to perpetuate the memory of a deceased friend or relative was for some one who thought they had a poetical turn of mind to describe the manner of death in verse. These memorials were sometimes twenty or more stanzas in length, were printed on slips of paper and distributed among relatives. The following lines were

written by Daniel Holdridge on the accidental death of Abner Starkey, which occurred in Oxford March 2, 1847:

Look, friends and neighbors, one and all,
How sudden death may on us fall;
We are not safe, nor yet secure,
Nor shall be while our lives endure.

A dreadful scene of late took place,
And now I will relate the case:
Himself and wife to Oxford went,
'Twas there he met the accident.

His horse was standing in the shed,
He went to get him as 'tis said;
The horse took fright and out he came;
He tried to hold him, but in vain.

Upon the horse's neck he hung;
Against the sign-post he was flung;
'Twas there he met the fatal blow
Which caused him pain and death also.

They took him up and then with care,
To a physician did him bear;—
Upon examination found
That he'd received a mortal wound.

Then for his friends they quickly sent,
Without delay with speed they went,
But oh! alas! they could not save
Their friend from an untimely grave.

His parents and companion too
Were striving something for to do
For this dear man, and give some aid
That would relieve his aching head.

The funeral sermon then was preached
By a good man—'twas Elder Leach;
The rites performed, and all things done,
They then consigned him to the tomb.

His name to you I'll now make known,
'Twas Abner Starkey, John's own son:
In Smithville town he did reside;
In Oxford town, 'twas there he died.

JONAH MOORE, a settler of McDonough, was drowned in the Chenango river at Oxford about the year 1815, under circumstances which induced the belief that he met a violent death at the hands of parties unknown.

Men, some to business, some to pleasure take;
. . . some to quiet, some to public strife,
—POPE.

Selah H. Fish.

Selah H. Fish was born May 8, 1812, in Springfield, Otsego county, N. Y., and came to Oxford in 1847. He was first married June 6, 1833, to Maria Brown, born October 14, 1811; died July 19, 1834. Mr. Fish's second marriage was March 12, 1837, when Amy Brown of Fly Creek, Otsego county, N. Y., became his wife. She was born June 27, 1817, and died December 10, 1893, in Neenah, Wis. Mr. Fish was a shoemaker and worked at that trade for many years in Oxford, and was also deputy sheriff, which office he effectually filled for several terms. He took much interest in the Oxford Band, of which he was a member, and was often referred to as the father of that organization. On September 20, 1861, Mr. Fish, with seven members, enlisted in the Regimental Band of the Anderson Zouaves, then encamped near Washington, but returned home early in the following spring, having been discharged on account of ill health. Mr. and Mrs. Fish left Oxford in 1885 to reside with their children at Neenah, Wis., where he met an accidental death April 7, 1887, on the Wisconsin Central railroad. Child by first wife:

EDGAR A., born July 12, 1834. In the U. S. Navy during Civil war. Died November 27, 1871, in South Oxford.

Children by second wife:

MARIA L., married Luke M. Robinson of South Oxford.

HENRY C., died February 14, 1845, in Cooperstown, N. Y.

JOHN J., married Chloe M. Bradley of Mogadore, Ohio. Now County Clerk of Winnebago county, Wis.

A brave man struggling in the storms of fate.
—POPE.

Edward A. Roome.

Edward A. Roome was born October 26, 1802, in New York City, and for a number of years was a commission merchant. He was an ardent Henry Clay Whig and, while acting as marshal of a political procession, was knocked from his horse and sustained a fracture of the skull, from the effects of which he never fully recovered. During the spring of 1846 he and his partner undertook a journey to what was then considered the far west, in order to procure each of them a farm. After visiting the extreme western part of the state they returned east through the Chenango valley. Being captivated by its beauties, they concluded to purchase farms adjoining each other in this town. Subsequently Mr. Roome bought the farm of Andrew McNeil, now owned by Mrs. Alice McCall, while his partner engaged to purchase the Brush farm adjoining, now owned by O. M. Westover. Returning to New York, he removed his family to Oxford in the fall of that year. As the Erie railroad was not at that time completed the family and goods were transported via Erie and Chenango canals, in a boat commanded by Captain George Balcom, afterwards the famous Baptist evangelist. Henry C. Roome, the eldest son, in speaking of the trip, says: "How well I remember my first impression of Oxford as I entered the village, tramping along the towpath by the side of the horses towing the boat. How dark and gloomy the 'hole in the wall' appeared; how tall and massive the steps leading up to the office of THE OXFORD TIMES in the building

which stood on the site of the First National Bank edifice; and with what awe and wonder I gazed upon, to me at that time, the ponderous elbow-jointed printing press, and with what feeling of supremacy, born of my superior years, I looked upon the youngster engaged in play with a newspaper on the counter." Mr. Roome and family took board with Colonel Otis J. Tracy and the following spring removed to the Brush farm, having paid forfeit to Mr. McNeil for not completing the purchase of his farm. After an experience of three years in farming he became tired of it and sold to William E. Chapman, moving into the village so that he could educate his children at the Academy. Mr. Roome occupied with his family the old Ingersoll house, which stood on the corner above Riverview cemetery, and which was demolished in 1903. After a year or two he purchased a house on Mechanic street. The effects of his injury becoming more and more severe, he was transferred to the Bloomingdale Asylum, New York, where he died April 18, 1855. Mr. Roome married, in 1833, Phebe Hyer of New York City, born in 1811, and died March 28, 1874, in Oxford. Children:

Sarah, born May 1, 1836, in New York City; died May 5, 1874, in Blue Earth City, Minn.; married April 20, 1856, George C. Rector.

Henry C., born in New York City, married March 1, 1864, Mary J., daughter of Dr. Austin and Jane (Perkins) Rouse. Residence, Jersey City, N. J. Mr. Roome enlisted during the Civil war in the 89th N. Y. S. V., was promoted to be captain, and finally became major. While endeavoring to save his regimental colors in a charge made against the enemy's works on September 27, 1864, he was taken prisoner and placed in Libby prison. Afterwards he was transferred to Salisbury, N. C., from whence he was released in February, 1865.

ANGELINA, born March 7, 1840; died March 25, 1902, in Hastings, Neb.; married July 22, 1875, George C. Rector.

BENJAMIN F., resides in New York City.

MARGARET H., born in 1847, in Oxford; died October 11, 1869, in Oxford.

AT THE TOWN MEETING held in 1796 Ephraim Fitch was chosen supervisor, and it was

Voted. That Nathan Carpenter and James Phelps be pound keepers and that their yards be pounds the year ensuing.

Voted. To give four pounds for each wolf's pate killed in this Town.

Voted. That hogs be free commoners yok'd and ring'd.

In the same year we find the record of "Marks of Creatures":

Isaac Snell's mark is a square crop off the right ear and a slit in the end of the same

David Shapley's mark is a half penny the underside of the right ear.

Samuel Hunt's mark a half penny under side the right ear and under side the left ear a half crop.

Joel Sprague's mark a square crop off the left ear and half penny underside the same.

Anson Cary's mark is a swallow's tail on the right ear.

Shubel Coy's mark is a smooth crop off the right Ear and a half penny under it.

Jonathan Baldwin's mark for creatures is a hole in the right ear.

Green Hall's mark is the end of the right ear cut off square apply'd for this 7th June, 1796. Sign'd Elihu Murray, Clerk.

DAVID AND HANNAH SHAPLEY came to this town in 1800 and began the construction, in the then unbroken wilderness, of the home where they lived and died. Their son, John, born May 5, 1810, married Naomi Wheeler, and died July 18, 1882.

Consider, man; weigh well thy frame,
The king, the beggar, is the same;
Dust formed us all. Each breathes his day
Then sinks in his native clay.
—GAY.

George Douglas, M. D.

The Douglas family dates its origin as far back as the eleventh century. The first Douglas that settled in America was one William Douglas, who landed in Boston, Mass., but later moved to New London, Conn., where he built the first frame house, which stood until 1865. William Douglas, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a captain of a military company during the Revolutionary war.

Dr. George Douglas, long a practicing physician in Oxford, died at his home on Washington park October 9, 1906. The doctor had been in feeble health for several months. He stood high in his chosen profession, and was a member of the Congregational Church.

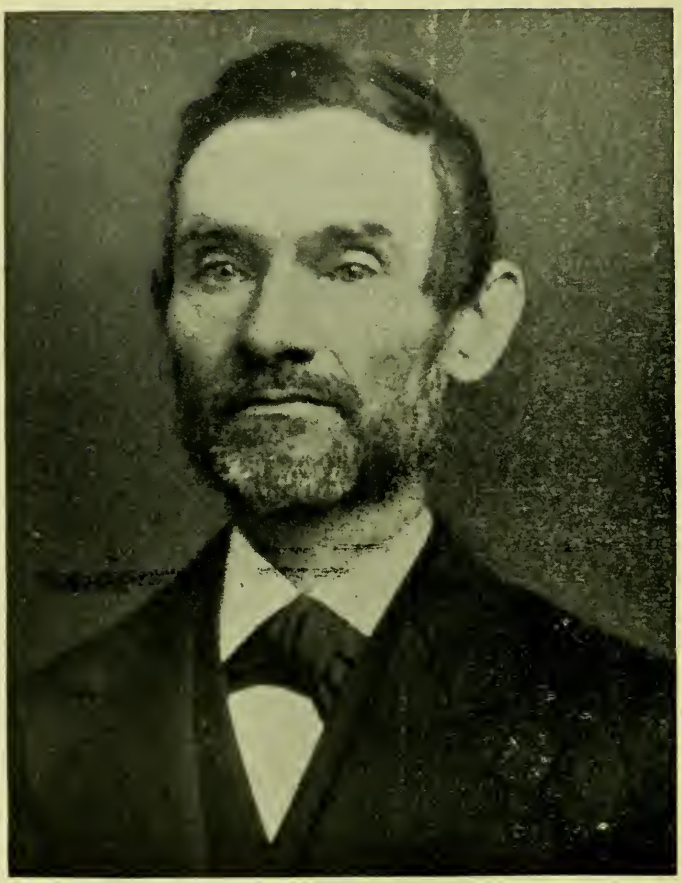
Dr. Douglas was the son of Hon. Amos and Miriam (Wright) Douglas, and born at Franklin, N. Y., May 7, 1823. He married February 17, 1858, Ada E. Frink of Fabius, N. Y., who died March 8, 1864. His second marriage occurred June 14, 1866, when he married Jane A., daughter of William Mygatt of Oxford, who died November 24, 1894.

Dr. Douglas was educated at the Delaware Literary Institute at Franklin, graduating in 1840. He read medicine with Dr. Francis Hine in his native town and later with

Dr. Clark at Smithville Flats, and in 1842 entered Geneva Medical College, and in 1844 the medical department of the University of the City of New York, graduating April 14, 1845. He began the practice of his profession at Smithville Flats, and in 1846 came to Oxford and entered into copartnership with Dr. S. R. Clarke in the drug business, which was dissolved in June of the following year. In August, 1860, he, with William H. VanWagenen, purchased the stock of drugs and medicine of Dr. Clarke, his former partner, retiring from the firm after a few years. Dr. Douglas still continued the practice of medicine in Oxford until his removal to Brooklyn in 1877, where he remained two years, and then returned to this village, and in 1887 purchased of William H. VanWagenen the residence on Washington Park.

Dr. Douglas, in July, 1864, was appointed Surgeon of the Board of Enrollment of this Congressional district. During the year 1887, accompanied by his daughter, he spent several months in Europe. He was a member of the New York State Medical Association, and the Chenango County Medical Association. In 1871 he was elected an honorary member of the California State Medical Society, and was a member of the Centennial International Medical Congress held in 1876 at Philadelphia. He was ex-president of the Rocky Mountain Medical Association, a member of the World's Medical Congress held in 1887 at Washington, in 1890 was a delegate from the American Medical Association to the World's Medical Congress, which assembled in Berlin, Germany, and was also a member of the first Pan-American Medical Congress held in 1893 at Washington.

Dr. Douglas was survived by one daughter, Mrs. Ellen McDonald, who had been his companion and attendant at home and abroad for many years.



JUDSON B. GALPIN

Allured to brighter worlds, and led the way.—GOLDSMITH.

Judson B. Galpin.

Judson Benjamin Galpin was a descendant of Benjamin and Rebecca Galpin, who settled at Woodbury, Conn., in 1680. The family has been traced back to the Huguenot war in the early part of the sixteenth century, when the De Galpins were driven from Paris, some went to Switzerland, others to Germany and England. Those who fled to the latter country dropped the "De," and the Galpins in America came from that line. Philip and Caleb Galpin, sons of John Galpin of Bristol, Somerset county, England, came to New Haven, Conn., in 1650, and were the first of that name in America. The Galpin coat of arms consists of a Bear "passant," on a field argent mounted upon a banner of ermine, which in turn is surmounted by three fleurs-de-lys.

Mr. Galpin was the eldest son of Benjamin and Polly (Judson) Galpin. He was born May 15, 1816, at Washington, Conn., died February 20, 1893, at Oxford; married May 16, 1841, Catherine Jane, second daughter of Alfred and Sarah (Hamlin) Hawley Brownson, born December 2, 1818, at Warren, Conn. On the 16th of May, 1891, Mr. and Mrs. Galpin, with their children, quietly celebrated the golden anniversary of their wedding at the family residence on Clinton street, Oxford.

Mr. Galpin at the age of seventeen years entered the printing office of the New Haven (Conn.) *Palladium,* under

the now almost forgotten apprentice system, as an "indentured apprentice." He was an apt scholar, and in January, 1838, when the five years of his apprenticeship were ended, he, with James F. Babcock, became publishers of the *Palladium*. The partnership was dissolved in October, 1839, but he remained in the office until May 14, 1841. The following month at the earnest solicitation of Elisha N. Hawley, Mrs. Galpin's half-brother, he with his young wife removed to the neighboring town of Greene. A journey in those days that was thought to be far west and a considerable undertaking. In that village Mr. Galpin and Mr. Hawley conducted a general merchandise business for nearly four years, when, in 1845, a yearning for his chosen profession induced him to come to Oxford and engage upon THE TIMES. Later he became associate publisher with Waldo M. Potter, who in after years became a leading State officer in North Dakota. On March 4, 1848, Mr. Galpin became sole proprietor and had full charge of the paper for forty-five years, until impaired health compelled him to lay down the stick and rule and submit the management of the office to his eldest son, Theodore B. Galpin. During the long years as publisher THE TIMES never failed to be issued on the regular publication day, was seldom behind the usual hour, and he was absent but twice on that day during his service of nearly half a century. His journal stood prominent among the leading interior newspapers of his day. His published opinions, we are told, "always commanded the respect, if not the adhesion of his readers." Mr. Galpin was faithful to his trusts, true to his friends, and conducted THE TIMES for the best interests of the town and its welfare, and the files of the paper are a fitting memorial to his integrity.

For nearly forty years Mr. Galpin conducted a book and stationery business in connection with the printing estab-

lishment, and at his death was the oldest business man in town.

He was a regular attendant at the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a member and trustee, and was clerk of the board for many years.

Public spirited, he gave generously to all that would benefit the village or town, and no subscription paper passed unsigned by him that would help a townsman in distress. Public office he never sought nor ever held. Of a quiet, retiring disposition, he was ever found at his place of business, yet enjoyed the companionship of friends and neighbors who entered his home or office. His children, all born in Oxford, are:

THEODORE BROWNSON GALPIN, born "Ere pinks were carnations and roses all double," from a boy up has always been identified with THE OXFORD TIMES. Like most printers, who have achieved success, he has passed through the various elements of carrier, devil, compositor, pressman, foreman, and country newspaper editor. The only intervals that occur to break a continued connection with THE TIMES were his attendance at Oxford Academy and two terms at Cazenovia Seminary. Even in the days when he was attending the Academy he was wont to divide his time out of school with work at the office, and many a night during the Civil war he put in long hours as roller-boy on the Washington hand press, which still has a retired nook in the office and at an age quite, if not past, the century mark. At the close of his school days at Cazenovia, Mr. Galpin began his active connection with the paper, which has never ceased to this day. Through the medium of THE TIMES, he stands for his home town first, last, and all the time, which sentiment has generally been appreciated by his townsmen. He conducts his business in a

practical and progressive manner, his policy being to give the reader spicy local news, and advertisers the best possible service. He realizes that advertising is done for the purpose of securing results. Accordingly his efforts have always been directed to making THE TIMES service bring results, and in this he has been notably successful. When Mr. Galpin retires at night and hangs his hat on the wall his family are all in.

HENRY JUDSON, married Mrs. Eva B. Williams of Fulton, N. Y., youngest daughter of Horace Nelson and Matilda (VanValkenburg) Sabin.

FLORRIE GEE, married John N. Walker, son of John and Mary (Sawtelle) Walker of McDonough, N. Y. Now resides at Warsaw, N. Y. Children: John Galpin, connected with the Electric Signal and Switch Company at Pittsburg, Pa.; Robert Sawtelle, stenographer for Warsaw Blue Stone Company, Warsaw, N. Y.; Alfred Brownson, died September 16, 1889, in infancy; Catherine, died September 28, 1891, in infancy; Agnes Louise.

JENNIE HARRIET, married Henry Starkweather, son of John H. and Anna Starkweather of New Haven, Conn. Now resides at Pittsburg, Pa.

LABORER'S WAGES in 1826 were from forty to sixty cents a day. Fresh beef was four cents a pound and fresh pork three and a half cents. "Locofoco" matches twenty-five cents per box, for what are now sold for a cent. Cord wood, one dollar per cord; flour, four to ten dollars per barrel; tobacco, forty cents per pound, and whisky thirty-five cents per gallon.

He lives who dies to win a lasting name.
—DRUMMOND.

Nelson C. Chapman.

Nelson C. Chapman came in 1846 to Oxford from Norwich, and with his brother-in-law, Joseph G. Thorp, succeeded Ira Willcox in the general mercantile business conducted at the brick store on Fort Hill. For a period of ten years they were prominent and successful business men of Oxford. Having disposed of their goods to Miller & Perkins, they engaged in banking for a short time in Clinton, Iowa, but finally became extensively engaged in the lumbering business at Eau Claire, Wis., where, by indomitable energy and sagacity, they secured a fortune. Mr. Chapman's large business interest directed him a few years later to St. Louis, where he became prominent in business circles and very influential in public affairs. He died in that city September 12, 1873. Elizabeth A., his wife, died May 6, 1876, aged 58. Children:

GILBERT, deceased.

FLORENCE A., born July 3, 1847, in Oxford; died December 2, 1900, in Paris, France; married October 21, 1869, at St. Louis, Henry Alcock, Esq., of Leamington, Warwickshire, England, who died in 1893. Children: Mary, Gilbert, died shortly after his father; Nelson, died in June, 1900; Harry, lieutenant of the English Navy, and Vivian.

CHARLES.

NELSON C., residence St. Louis, Mo.

That chastity of honor which felt a stain like a wound.
—Burke.

Capt. Joseph Hawley Dwight.

Captain Joseph Hawley Dwight was born at Great Barrington, Mass., September 13, 1785. Soon after arriving at the age of 21 he went to Bridgewater, N. Y., and in 1812 entered the United States army as ensign. During the war he was engaged for the most time in active service on the frontier, and toward the close as quartermaster to the 13th Reg't of Infantry, in which position he served faithfully. At the close of the war he resigned his office and resided at Unadilla Forks, N. Y., Schenectady, and Utica until 1840, when he came to Oxford. Here he entered into copartnership with the Clarkes, under the firm name of E. Clarke, Son & Co., which was dissolved May 1, 1843, by his withdrawal. Captain Dwight was known and esteemed for his strict integrity, and beloved by all for his benevolence of heart and hand. His death at the age of 60 followed a carriage accident which occurred August 6, 1845. Catherine Clarke, his wife, sister of Ethan Clarke, born April 17, 1793, in Stonington, R. I., died June 11, 1840, in Oxford. They had but one child, Henry William, who died in infancy.

DAVID DAVIS was one of the early settlers of the town, but very little is now known of him, except that he had two daughters, Cornelia, married Joseph Lobdell, and Lucinda, married Francello Stuart.

Of manners gentle, of affections mild;
In wit a man, simplicity a child.
—Pope.

Rev. Jared C. Ransom.

Rev. Jared Comstock Ransom was born at Warren, Herkimer county, May 24, 1803, and early in life became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1834 he was given an exhorter's license, and in 1836 a local preacher's license; the same year he joined Oneida Conference, and in 1869 became a member of Wyoming Conference. His pastoral record was Sharon, Brookfield, Otego, Chenango Circuit, Butternuts, and Oxford. In 1839, on account of feeble health, he was superanuated and came to Oxford, purchasing the house and land on State street, which he occupied till his death. He devoted much time to agricultural pursuits, and officiating for absent pastors. He was firm in his duties and convictions, highly respected and esteemed in this and adjoining communities. His services were frequently required at wedding and funeral ceremonies, and an incomplete record from November 3, 1839, to June 2, 1879, shows that he officiated at 327 weddings; and from January 15, 1837, to June 12, 1877, he preached 583 funeral sermons. In November, 1879, Elder Ransom was stricken with paralysis on his right side, and died July 5, 1882, aged 79. His first wife was Ann Amanda Cook, who died December 25, 1828, leaving three sons. On August 2, 1840, he married Mary Preston of Oxford, who died December 28, 1858.

Charles C. Ransom, eldest son of Rev. J. C. Ransom, was employed several years in the office of The Oxford

TIMES. He was cordial and pleasant in manner, and possessing good-natured mirth attached many friends, especially among those of his own age. On leaving THE TIMES office he secured a position on the Erie railroad. On February 21, 1856, an accident occurred at Cascade bridge by which he lost his life. He had signaled a train across the bridge and with a lamp on each arm attempted to get upon a car; his foot slipped and was caught under a wheel, which passed over him, severing an arm and leg from the body. He was taken to Susquehanna, where he survived for four hours, suffering little pain and in the full possession of his senses until he calmly expired.

Norman K. Ransom, brother of above, a prominent citizen of Richfield Springs, died at that place March 13, 1872.

THE COMMON SCHOOLS of the town celebrated Washington's birthday at the Congregational church in 1844. Music was furnished by the Tyrolean Band, and the exercises consisted of examinations of the scholars in arithmetic and grammar, followed by addresses from Revs. Perry, Burtis, and Sperry. Eighteen of the twenty-one districts were represented by teachers, who were accompanied by 460 scholars. Nearly 100 more children and 300 adults were present.

JOHN HOLMES died in Oxford, May 12, 1849, in the 90th year of his age. He entered the Revolutionary army at the age of 16, and served until the conclusion of the war. He came to this town when there was but one dwelling where the village now stands, and resided here until his death. Esther, his widow, died March 21, 1863, aged 86.

Ay, sir; to be honest, as this world goes, is to be one man picked out of two thousand.

—SHAKESPEARE.

Addison Dudley Adams.

Addison Dudley Adams, son of Platt and Clarissa (Dudley) Adams, was born in Durham, Greene county. He received his elementary education in the public schools of his native town, and on finishing his school work moved to Oxford and engaged in mercantile business in the Fort Hill block. After remaining here a few years he removed in 1839 to Greene, where he conducted a general dry goods business. He married Mary, daughter of John and Mary (Welch) Perry of Oxford. Mr. Adams held the position of supervisor of the town of Greene for several terms. His death occurred in 1878. Mrs. Adams died January 27, 1905. Children:

PLATT, married Claire Varlet of Paris, France, and resides in New York City.

JOHN P., married Calista Weaver of Syracuse; resides at New York City.

WILLIAM A., married Mary Rule of Belleville, N. J.; dead.

REUBEN A., died in infancy.

AUGUSTUS WILLARD, resides in Chicago. He held for two years the athletic championship in the United States at putting the sixteen pound shot.

EMILY C., married Romeo M. Wilbur of Sioux City, Ia.; now resides in Greene.

A heap of dust alone remains of thee,
'Tis all thou art, and all the proud shall be.
—POPE.

Horace Packer.

Horace Packer, born in Norwich, January 2, 1812, came to Oxford in 1839. He was educated at the district schools of his native town, at Oxford Academy, and Madison University at Hamilton. He read law with Judge McKoon in this village, was early admitted to the bar, and began the practice of law, in which by untiring and indomitable spirit he gained a prominent position among distinguished competitors. In November, 1846, he married Mary A. Tisdal of Little Falls, N. Y., who died seven months afterwards.

Through life and to his last days, Mr. Packer was a diligent student, and much of a philsopher. In the study of sacred and polite literature, history and the classics, he was probably equalled by few or none in our midst. His ready and accurate familiarity with the ancient philosophers, the incidents of their early lives and the spirit of their teachings was a surprise to those verifying his statements by knowledge or research. To those who knew him by a mere superficial acquaintance there can be but a small idea of the originality, brilliant wit and conversational powers that for many years made him a central figure in social life, and always a delight in family gatherings.

Losing his wife so early, his long, solitary life unblessed by those graces which come from the love, sacrifice, and sympathy of the home circle to the husband and father, there was yet displayed in his life in a remarkable degree

an almost knightly courtesy and kindness to all, high or low, with whom he was associated. For young men he was especially considerate and thoughtful; helping them forward into notice and self-confidence.

Always active, though for some years in delicate health, his final sickness lasted but about ten days, and his death, which occurred from lung disease, was unexpectedly sudden. He died at his residence in this village November 10, 1881.

OLIVER C. RHODES, born June 16, 1769, in Westerly R.I., came to Oxford in 1814, where he resided until his death, which occurred April 23, 1846. His wife, Eunice Pendleton, born December 15, 1776, in Westerly, died October 10, 1854, in Oxford. They bought the farm now owned and occupied by their great grandson, Oliver John Rhodes, north of the Woman's Relief Corps Home. Among their children was OLIVER, 2d, born December 26, 1803, in Westerly, R. I., and died February 11, 1893, in Oxford, on the farm on which he had resided seventy-eight years. He married February 5, 1841, Marie Louisa Perry, daughter of Deacon John Perry, born February 3, 1812, in Smithville, N. Y., and died March 4, 1903, in Oxford. Children, none of whom survive:

ELLEN MARIE, married Thomas Peck, who met an accidental death on the railroad.

JOHN P., married Rufina Pierce. Children: Carrie Ellen, married William Fox; Oliver John, married Emma C. Whited of Binghamton, now living on the old homestead; Belle Bond, died at the age of 12.

OLIVER, 3d, died in infancy.

Whose remembrance yet lives in men's eyes.
—SHAKESPEARE.

Frederick A. Sands.

Frederick A. Sands, son of Judge Obadiah and Elizabeth (Teed) Sands, was born in Bainbridge, February 19, 1813. He was a student in Oxford Academy in 1828. As early as 1835 he was a clerk in a store at Unadilla, and later engaged in business under the firm name of Fellows & Sands, which was soon changed to Watson & Sands. In 1840 he returned to Oxford and entered into business with his brother-in-law, James W. Clarke. In 1856 he returned to Unadilla, and a few years later, on the death of his father, Mr. Sands, who was executor and trustee of the estate, abandoned his mercantile pursuits and devoted himself to the affairs of the estate.

On the formation of the First National Bank of Oxford, Mr. Sands became interested with James W. Clarke, and an old personal friend, Henry L. Miller, and others, and was one of the original directors and the first cashier of that institution. Mr. Miller and he were lifelong friends, and they were buried at the same hour and on the same day in March, 1886. At the death of Mr. Sands it was said of him, "Few men have done so much business with so little litigation." His papers were "models of neatness and brevity, and always as correct as care and labor could make them." With this scrupulous exactness went also a fine integrity.

Mr. Sands married (1) Maria, daughter of Sherman Page, who died two years after the marriage; married (2)

in January, 1841, Clarissa A., sister of Henry R. Mygatt of Oxford, who survived him only a few months.

Children:

Frances Maria, died September 20, 1841.

Clara Mygatt, married Senator Frank B. Arnold; died June 3, 1881.

Henry, married (1), 1872, Eveline Ingersoll; married (2), 1885, Ada Wilson.

Belle, married Samuel S. North.

J. Frederick, married Clara Louise Pelletreau.

JEREMIAH TILLOTSON, born in 1776 in Rutland, Vt., came to Oxford after obtaining his majority. He married in this town and shortly afterwards moved to Greene, where he died in 1852. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, and rendered gallant service until the close of the same. Children:

Jeremiah, married Lovicy Loomis of Greene, who died November 7, 1877, in Oxford, aged 71. He inherited a fortune while yet a young man, but through high living and a generous disposition he was left penniless in his old age, and died September 11, 1898, aged 94, at the County House in Preston.

Sabrina, married William Race of South Oxford.

Silas, married Eunice Smith of Rutland, Mass.

PLATT BRUSH settled in Greene as early as 1802. He removed to Oxford in the spring of 1810, where he practiced law. He finally returned to New York from whence he originally came.

Everyone cleaves to the doctrine he has happened upon as to a rock against which he has been thrown by tempest.
—Cicero.

Rev. Jabez S. Swan.

Rev. Jabez S. Swan, better known as Elder Swan, was a native of Stonington, Ct., and when the British fleet bombarded that place in 1814 served as powder monkey to the cannoneers that defended the town. At the age of 22 he was a licensed preacher; but thinking himself insufficiently educated, determined to take a theological course at Madison University, Hamilton, N. Y. To reach the college he rode 250 miles on horseback. Having $100 saved from hard work, and a young wife earnest and active as himself, he leased a cabin for nine dollars a year and began housekeeping. Every Sunday while at college he rode twenty miles to preach before a congregation that paid him fifty cents a sermon. On other days he earned three shillings at felling trees and cutting timber. In 1827 he was graduated. In such a school of heroic self-denial, Elder Swan was fitted for the work to which, during the next fifty years, he applied himself. Fifteen thousand persons were converted under his preaching, and in one of his earliest pastorates, covering a period of three years, he baptized 1800 persons. He became insane at the time the lamented Garfield was assassinated, and until his death, which occurred at New London, Ct., November 19, 1884, at the age of 85, his mind was under a cloud. He was pastor of the Oxford Baptist Church from 1839 to 1842. During one of the revival meetings he was holding here, Asa Beardsley, a noted character, and of very dark complexion, went forward. Elder Swan, on seeing him among the penitents,

exclaimed: "The devil has turned over another black ace!" The following is an extract from one of his sermons:

"I was preaching once over on the borders of heathendom, between Guilford and Oxford, and in my audience saw a hard shell Baptist, who had said that 'if Christ had gone through his cornfield on Sunday and picked ears of corn, he would have had a supreme writ on him before he slept.' I knew he was there and I told the story. A half crazy fellow sat upon the pulpit stairs, and, as I finished, he looked up and said: 'Well, Elder, he would have to go to the devil to get the writ, wouldn't he?' Yes, said I, and it would have been an eternal journey."

JONATHAN BUSH lived on Merchants street at a very early day and owned considerable land in the village. Washington Park was once a cornfield owned by his son. It can be said of him:

> "This man came to this country at an early day,
> Where nothing dwelt, but beasts of prey,
> And men as fierce, and wild as they."

AMOS HAVENS was an early settler in the eastern part of the town. After his death the family moved to Bainbridge. Among his children were: WILLIAM, CHAMPLAIN, URSULA, married Job Ireland; MARY ANN, married and went west; CALISTA, was a deaf mute; and FREDERICK, was blind, having destroyed the sight of one eye by doctoring the other, which was accidently destroyed by a knife.

Neither fish nor flesh, nor good red herring.—Sir H. Sheers.

Fourth of July Bill.

The following is a copy of a bill incurred by the committee of nineteen who superintended the celebration of Indepedence Day in 1838. It will be noticed that they did not recklessly use the funds on beer and cigars:

4th July Committee,

To T. Orcutt, Dr.

June	7th	To	2 Bottles wine	$ 2.00
	8	"	" do do	2.00
	"		Soda	.25
	15	"	one Bottle wine	1.00
July	3	"	Expenses paid bringing boughs	.25
"	"	"	2 pitchers Lemonade	1.00
"	4	"	4 Bottles Rum at 4/—	2.00
"	"	"	6 do Brandy "	3.00
"	"	"	9 do Wine 8/—	9.00
"	"	"	6 Bowls 8 Sugar 4/—	3.00
"	"	"	6 Bowls & Sugar 4/—	3.00
"	"	"	Crackers & Cheese	.50
"	"	"	Segars	.50
"	"	"	Beer	.25
"	"	"	6 drinks	.37
"	"	"	16 pitchers Lemonade	8.00
"	"	"	punches	.50
"	"	"	1 Tumbler Broke	.25
				$33.87
"	"	"	1 Bottle Wine	1.00
			22 Diners for Revolutionary Soldiers	
			3 " Clergy	
			19 " Committee	
			18 " Musicians	62.00
				$96.87

We have strict statutes and most fitting laws.
—SHAKESPEARE.

Court of Common Pleas.

The first Court of Common Pleas held in Chenango County was convened at the schoolhouse in Hamilton in June, 1798. The first business transacted was the admission of Thomas R. Gold, Joseph Kirkland, Nathan Williams, Stephen O. Runyan, Nathaniel King, Arthur Breese, Peter B. Garnsey and Medad Curtis, to practice as attorneys and counselors in this Court. The second term was held in Oxford, in October, 1798; and after this the Courts were held alternately at Oxford and Hamilton until the formation of Madison county. The Court met three times a year to transact county business. The Judges were authorized to open the Court on Tuesday, but not to hold beyond Saturday of the same week.

The first Circuit Court was held July 10, 1798, at which Justice Kent, afterwards Chancellor, presided. No business was transacted at this sitting of the Court, as will appear from the subjoined copy of the clerk's minutes:

At a Circuit Court held at the Academy in the town of Oxford in and for the County of Chenango, on the 10th July, 1798, before the Honorable James Kent, Esquire, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of judicature of the State of New York.

Present.
Hon. James Kent, Esq.
The Court opened by proclamation.
The Court adjourned for one hour.
The Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present.
Hon. James Kent, Esq.
The Court adjourned *sine die*.

"The days come and go liks muffled and veiled figures; but they say nothing, and if we do not use the gifts that bring they carry them as silently away."

Extracts from a Journal.

Extracts from a Journal, written by Miss Susan Hopkins, daughter of Capt. Frederick Hopkins. It is dated Oxford Female Seminary, February 22d, 1836:

This week begins the last half of this term and I commence Journal Writing. My studies this term are Philosophy, Tytler's History, Emerson's Arithmetick, Grammar, and Woodbridge's Geography. We go up stairs nearly every week to see Philosophical experiments. they are generally very interesting. We repeat verses from the Bible every other morning. My verse this morning was Mr. Bailey's text yesterday forenoon. It was in John 3 chapter 16 verse . . . I attend singing school every Saturday, we have a very pleasant school. There are upwards of sixty scholars. Mr. Buel, the teacher, is very strict. Wednesday evenings we have a Sigourney society. We speak pieces and have a Mirror read that is very interesting, and repeat facts, and Miss R. selects an interesting story to read. Now I must put up my writing to read and spell.

Tuesday 23, 1836.

I am again seated at Miss Hyde's table to write my Journal. It it not quite as pleasant to-day as it was yesterday, as the sun does not shine, but it is as warm I think. . . . This afternoon I have got to cipher. I am ciphering in interest. I find the sums very difficult and cannot do them without a great deal of assistance. . . . I will put up my Journal and attend to my lessons.

Thursday, February 25, 1836.

To-day the wind blows quite hard and the snow flies. Tuesday evening we did not go up stairs as we thought we should, but I went to a party at Mr. Miller's. We had a very pleasant party. Yesterday Miss Cheever came to school for the last time. She is going home next week. I wrote to M. G. Throop yesterday. I am going to send it by Miss Cheever. Last evening we went up stairs. The experiments were not as interesting as we expected they would be. We saw the Magick Lantern. That was very pretty, but I have seen that before. . . . This morning the Trustees came in school, but did not happen to hear me recite, which I was very glad of. This week is the week to write compositions, which I must be a thinking about. I dread to hear the name of composition, but it is for my improvement so I must do the best I can.

Friday, February 26, 1836.

To-day it snows very fast, the flakes of snow are so large they look almost like feathers. Sarah Jane was taken with the croup day before yesterday and is no better yet, she has it very hard. . . .

Monday, February 29, 1836.

Another cold stormy day. I did not write a Journal Saturday, as there was no school. . . . In the evening I went to singing school, the afternoon I spent at Dr. Clark's with Miss Cheever and M. Perry. Yesterday was Sunday. In the morning I attended the Methodist meeting. In the afternoon there being no meeting at the Methodist, I went to the Baptist. To-day the weather is very cold and it snows. I came to school very early. We repeated verses, mine was in Philippians, 2 chapter, and 14 verse. Miss Hyde came to school, but was sick and went home. Miss U. Glover heard us recite. . . .

Tuesday, March 1st, 1836.

To-night there is a cotillion party at Mr. Clark's, which I calculate to attend. Miss Hyde was not well enough to come to school to-day and Miss M. Maine heard us recite.

Thursday, March 3, 1836.

. . . Miss Cheever started for home yesterday morning. I spent the evening with her before she left at a cotillion party at Mr. Clark's. I received a letter from L. Wheeler day before yesterday. She expects to come to Oxford to school next term.

Monday, March 7, 1836.

I have not written a Journal since Thursday as I have not had time. . . . Yesterday was very pleasant in the forenoon. Mr. Bush preached. . . . I received a note Saturday from Miss A C. Rodman.

Tuesday, March 8, 1836.

. . . Yesterday C. Hyde came to school in the afternoon. It was her birthday, fifteen years old. I think I shall go home this afternoon as I have not been since New Year's day, which is longer than I ever staid away before. Last evening sister received a letter from Cousin Jane. She says the snow is four feet deep at Kingston, Pa., and they have had severe cold weather.

Thursday, March 10, 1836.

According to my expectations, Tuesday afternoon I went home. In the morning my brother John went up the river five miles for a doctor for Mrs. Hull, who is very sick, and I went with him. I had a very pleasant ride as it was a beautiful day. I did not get back until after school had begun, but was in time to learn my Philosophy and History lessons. In the evening we went up stairs to see some experiments. Mr. McKoon showed us the electrical machine, and also the umbra and penumbra caused by the shadow of the earth and moon. These he illustrated by taking a pail and putting it on the floor and setting three candles on one side of it, the shadow of which caused the umbra and penumbra. These were very interesting. . . . We read in the Bible this morning the 1st Chapter of Mark. I recited in Philosophy and History this morning and did many difficult sums. This afternoon I have read, but not spelt. The reason we have not I do not know. I must now study my Grammar.

Monday, March 14, 1836.

Friday evening I went to the Presbyterian singing school. Saturday was a very pleasant day. In the evening I went to singing school again. Yesterday Mr. Bush was at the Episcopal meeting all day. Next Saturday is to be our last school, we are to meet in the Episcopal church in the afternoon and in the evening at the Baptist. . . . This morning the bell tolled for Mr. McCalpin, he died last evening. . . . This evening there is to be a dancing school and to-morrow evening is to be the last cotillion party.

Tuesday, March 15, 1836.

Last evening I very unexpectedly went to dancing school. There were but few there, but we spent the evening very pleasantly. . . . Sister went home this morning. . . . Of late I have had nothing to write in my Journal, the cause I know not.

Monday, March 21, 1836.

Saturday afternoon the singers met at the Episcopal church and in the evening at the Baptist, which was our last school. We are going to meet to practice at Miss E. Butler's Saturday evenings. . . . I am going to review Conversation in Common Things. . . .

Friday, March 25th, 1836.

Last evening I went to the publick dancing school. There were a great many there and we stayed very late and enjoyed ourselves very much. . . . This noon when I went home I found mother and Julia there. . . . This evening the Presbyterians have their last singing school in the Presbyterian meeting house. . . .

Monday, March 28, 1836.

Friday evening I went to the Presbyterian singing school. I did not think they sung any better than we did, although most or many of our school were there. Saturday afternoon I spent at Mr. Perkins'.

Tuesday, March 29, 1836.

As soon as the usual exercises were over I did some sums in Percentage and Interest by Decimals, which I found very difficult. I then learnt my Philosophy lesson. As soon as we had recited the French teacher came in and took his class in the recitation room, so I did not hear him talk.

Thursday, March 31, 1836.

Yesterday after school I went home with father, who was down, and found mother and all well. Harriet Hall was there, she staid all night. This morning I came down alone on the crust and had a very pleasant walk. When I came to school I found it had been begun sometime, but I was very industrious and worked quite hard all at one sum and could not do it after all. Miss Robinson tried once or twice, but did not succeed in getting it right. I thought I should get through the Book to-day, but I shall not, as I cannot do nor understand them at all, but I have one consolation there are but three or four sums more. This morning I learnt eight and a half pages in philosophy and six selections in Tytler's History. As my stock of news is exhausted I will put up my Journal and work at that sum that I could not do this morning.

Friday, April 1st, 1836.

. . . There was a meeting at Church to-day, it being Good Friday, but I did not go as I had to come to school. The girls have trimmed

the room with greens, some that make it look like summer almost. I finished reading the Scottish Chiefs last evening and commenced the Hungarian Brothers.

Tuesday, April 5th, 1836.

There has been no school since Friday, as Miss Robinson has been away, therefore I have not written any Journal, and now I have the more nonsense to write. Saturday the Doctor came to see Sister, as she was lame. Saturday evening I went to Mr. Tracy's to singing school. We had a very pleasant school. There were but few there. Sunday I went to church all day. Sister was lame so she did not go, and John staid home to take care of her. Our folks came down in the sleigh, but went home at noon, so I did not see them. Yesterday I made some bread for the first time. Sarah Jane spent the day at our house yesterday. This morning I came to school quite early and learnt my lessons as usual. I thought when I commenced writing my Journal I should have a great deal of nonsense to write, but I find I have not as much as I expected.

Wednesday, April 6th, 1836.

It is very unpleasant to-day, the wind blows and it snows in flurries. Brother John watched at Mr. Lobdell's last night. I have no news.

Saturday, April 9th, 1836.

I did not write a Journal yesterday as I was not at school. Sister is sick and lame. It is very pleasant. This evening the singing school is at Mr. Glover's.

Monday, April 11, 1836.

I wrote in my Journal Saturday it was pleasant, and so it was then, but in the afternoon it commenced raining and continued doing so through the night. Sunday the water commenced rising and continued to rise through the day. The water came up across the road on both sides of the square. In the forenoon I went to the Methodist meeting, they did not have any preaching, there was a prayer meeting. In the afternoon I went to church, the water had then just begun to run across the walk by the postoffice. Mr. Van Ingen preached. I rode home in a wagon, some went home in a boat. The people think there is great danger of the bridge going off, but last night the water fell a great deal so it does not run over both walks to-day. Mr. Lobdell and Mr. Guernsey died yesterday.

Wednesday, April 13, 1836.

I did not come to school yesterday afternoon as I went to Mr. Guernsey's funeral. Mr. Bush preached. His text was in Job, 14th chapter and first verse: "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble." It was very pleasant yesterday, but to-day it is exactly the reverse. It is very cold and snows very fast. It is five or six inches deep I should think. This morning I came to school quite early and said verses, the one I learnt was in Proverbs, 18th chapter and 22d verse: "Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord." . . .

Thursday, April 14th, 1836.

. . . To-morrow is the last day of school. We have no examinations.

Monday, May 15, 1836.

I am again seated in my old seat at school. Miss Whitney is the teacher this term. There are a great many scholars from abroad at school this term already and more are expected this week.

Monday, May 30, 1836.

I have not written a Journal for some time because I have not had time. My Philosophy and Geography and Arithmetic occupy all the morning, and my Grammar the afternoon, as it is very difficult to learn. We have to learn all the fine print as well as the coarse, which I never did before, therefore it requires a great deal of attention and study. We write a composition once a fortnight, half the school one week and half the next. Wednesday afternoon is spent in reading and hearing compositions read. Miss Whitney takes a great deal of pains in our reading. There are 44 scholars in school. Miss Whitney has no assistant yet, but is going to have one as soon as the trustees can get one. Friday evening I went to Mr. Tracy's to singing school. The next one is on Friday next at Mr. Glover's. There was one at church as usual last Sunday at 5 o'clock at the Episcopal church. Next Sunday the Bishop is expected. We are learning several pieces of music for the occasion. . . . Last week Thursday evening Mr. H. and G. Van Wagenen came from New York and took tea at our house on Saturday.

Tuesday, June 7th, 1836.

Last Saturday Sister went up to Norwich to hear the Bishop. Sunday he was here. There were two baptised and eleven confirmed. The Bishop called at our house in the evening but I did not see him. Monday Sister went to Greene with the Bishop and returned in the evening. The singers had selected and learnt several pieces to sing, but the Bishop would let them sing none of them. Wednesday was the celebration of the capture of Santa Anna. The boys fired the cannon in the afternoon and evening. It happened to be a singing school at Mr. Clarke's, and the Oxford band played upon the stoop, and fireworks on the green, which were splendid. We did not sing much that evening. There are 49 scholars in school now. Emily Maples has come back and E. Cannon is coming this week.

Thursday, June 16th, 1836.

The 10th of June went over to Fayetteville at meeting. The Bishop was there. I went over with Colonel Van Wagenen and sister and M. Van Wagenen and S. Perkins. We had a very pleasant ride. Sister E. and H. Cary went over on horseback and when we came back I rode Sister's horse and she came in the carriage. We had a delightful ride. Monday A. Miller and I went down to Mr. Stevenses. We had a very pleasant visit of course. Yesterday we went up stairs to hear the young gentlemen speak. There were between 30 and 40 spoke and 4 or 5 compositions read. I was very glad there was no more as they were so long. I got very tired. The Miss Cobbs have come from N. York. They are very pretty girls. I called on them last evening. There are 52 scholars in school now.

Monday, June 20, 1836.

Yesterday the son of Mr. Rufus Baldwin was drowned, Lyman Baldwin aged 18. He was in the river bathing when he was drowned.

Tuesday, July 5th, 1836.

The assistant teacher, Miss Page, has come from Owego. She came last week and Mrs. Throop and Mary came the first of last week, they are now at Mr. Miller's. Saturday there was one of the greatest hail storms here ever known. It lasted one hour and a quarter. The hail stones were so large as to break windows. Yesterday was a very still day here for the fourth of July. The band went to Norwich, and the older ladies, I mean not the smallest girls such as myself, went to ride to Greene with the young gentlemen and a very sad accident happened to Angeline Wheeler. As the party was returning home they got this side of Mr. Morgan's and the horses run and the carriage broke and all were upset. A. W. was hurt most, her leg was broken and what else I do not know as yet. The party left her at the tavern and the rest or part of them came home. Here ended the 4th of July, 1836. and my Journal also.

How sleep the brave who sink to rest,
By all their country's wishes bless'd!
—COLLINS.

When the Revolutionary War broke out Thomas Van-Gaasbeck and Elisha Jewell were among those who took up arms in defense of their country, whose soil had been invaded by a hostile force, and rendered as volunteers what service they could. Both were young, ardent and brave. After the close of the war they came to Oxford to reside. Mr. Van-Gaasbeck died on the 28th of April, 1841, aged 82; and Mr. Jewell on the 15th of March, 1842, aged 85. The bodies of the old veterans rest in peace in Riverview cemetery.

JUDGE HENRY STEVENS, born in 1792, at Enfield, Ct., came in 1802 with his parents to Chenango County. In 1807 he was a student in Oxford Academy. After finishing his studies at this institution he read law with Stephen O. Runyan, and in 1814 he commenced the practice of law in Cortland, where he died in 1869.

Sunday is the golden clasp that binds together
the volume of the week.—LONGFELLOW.

Congregational Church.

A period of about eight years had elapsed after the first institution of learning was erected before there was any religious organization in Oxford. However the church history had a beginning September 19, 1799, when the first religious society was incorporated and designated as the "Associated Presbyterian Society in Oxford." Its earliest foundations however, were labors of Uri Tracy, of whom mention is made elsewhere, for prior to the formation of any church in Oxford he seems to have been recognized as virtually the pastor of the community. The minister who was instrumental in organizing this church was the Rev. John Camp, a graduate of Yale college. He was one of the trustees of Oxford Academy, and apart from his ministerial labors he seems to have been a helpful, uplifting factor both in the promotion of education and religion. His home was on the farm northeast of the village, now owned and occupied by James Burke. The first trustees of the church were: Uri Tracy, Jonathan Bush, Edward Robbins, Joshua Mersereau, John Nash, Nathan Carpenter, Solomon Curtis, Lyman Ives, and Ephraim Fitch. Solomon Curtis received the appointment of deacon.

The Congregational church at Sherburne was the only earlier organization of the kind in Chenango county.

The Associated Presbyterian Society was formed in the first Academy building on Washington Square. Its pastor, the Rev. Mr. Camp, withdrew after a ministry of three



CONGREGATIONAL CHURGH and Miller Memorial Chapel



BRONZE MEMORIAL TABLET IN OXFORD ACADEMY

years, after which for six years there was no regular preaching. In October, 1807, *The President*, a village journal, announced, "The Trustees of the Associated Presbyterian Society, Uri Tracy, Stephen O. Runyan, and Amos A. Franklin, notwithstanding the rumors of war, and the excommunication of the emperor, will receive subscriptions to the new church, without further delay." Early in 1808 the society which had been partially dissolved, again united and in June of that year installed the Rev. Eli Hyde as pastor by means of a ministerial council assembled for that purpose. He preached for four years until the people were no longer able to give him an adequate support and was then dismissed in the year 1812.

Up to this time twenty-two persons had united with the church, and their names constitute the earliest roll of members now extant. The list is as follows: James Mitchel, Agnes Mitchel, Eber Scofield, Solomon Curtis, Sarah Curtis, Moses Bennett, Mary Bennett, Lucy Smith, Hannah Cary, Keziah Balcom, Massy Brooks, Sarah Holmes, Hannah Noble, Moses Keyes, Margaret Keyes, Abigail Stephens, David Tracy, Mary Tracy, Eleazur Smith, Isaac Foote, Anna Foote, Rachel Morris. The following minutes are on the church books, November 29, 1810: "The church after having looked to God for special direction in the choice of a deacon proceded and made choice of Amos A. Franklin to the office." At a meeting after lecture January 13, 1811, "Brother Franklin publicly consecrated to the office by prayer." For twelve years or more from the time of its organization the congregation assembled at the Academy, and then worshiped at the home of Deacon Franklin, which stood probably on the site now occupied by the residence of Dr. J. W. Thorp.

Although without a minister the new church held its stated meetings each week, at which services were con-

ducted by Deacons Gile and Franklin. As the congregation became too large for his house he prepared the upper story of his cabinet shop as a place of worship, and instituted a flourishing Sunday school, of which he was for many years superintendent. The building has since been converted into a dwelling and is now the house of George A. Mallory. Ministers were secured whenever one could be found and of whatever denomination to supply the church on each Sunday. The Society was reorganized in January, 1818. This act became necessary owing to some irregularity in the matter of electing trustees which had the effect of dissolving the Society, according to law. Three trustees were now elected, namely: Solomon Bundy, William Gile and Amos A. Franklin. There was a decided renewal of religious interest among the members in 1821, through the earnest efforts of Rev. Marcus Harrison, who ministered to them for several Sabbaths and instituted a revival. Its results were so encouraging, many being converted, that a general desire was expressed for the erection of a new sanctuary. This idea received the approval of their fellow citizens, the work was begun the following year with many misgivings and involving great sacrifices. Through the generosity of Mr. Ira Willcox, a most energetic business man, ground for a fine site was furnished; enough money was collected to erect the frame and cover it on both sides. At this point, as the funds subscribed had been expended and the minister who was such a help in the undertaking having gone, nothing further could be done.

During the fall of the same year, 1822, Rev. Joseph D. Wickham came by chance to Oxford and was invited by Deacon Franklin to preach on Sunday. He preached three sermons in the deacon's cabinet shop, which was well filled with listeners who were much pleased and asked him to

settle here. The invitation was accepted and he entered upon the pastorate in January, 1823. His presence excited a fresh interest in the new church, and another subscription was circulated with success. Mr. Willcox lent valuable aid in directing the workmen, and on the last day of July the edifice was dedicated to divine worship, Rev. Edward Andrews preaching the sermon from the text: "And I saw no temple therein; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."

The Oxford Gazette of August 6, 1823, contains the following account of the dedication:

The new Presbyterian Church in this village, was dedicated to the service of Almighty God on Thursday last. An eloquent & appropriate discourse, from Revelation xxi, 22, was delivered on the occasion, by the Rev. Edward Andrews, of Norwich.

After the dedication, the Rev. Joseph D. Wickham was ordained to the work of the Ministry. The prayer introductory to the solemnities of ordination, was offered by Rev. Charles Avery, of Columbus; and the consecrating prayer by the Rev. Lyman S. Rexford, of Sherburne. The Rev. Asa Donaldson, of Guilford, delivered the charge; and the Rev. John B. Hoyt, of Greene, gave the right hand of fellowship, and offered the concluding prayer.

The occasion drew together a large concourse of people from this and the neighboring towns, who appeared much gratified at the services of the day. The choir of singers, under the direction of Mr. William J. Edson, by the style of their performance, reflected much credit upon the talents and abilities of their instructor.

We cannot refrain from noticing, at this time, the merits of Mr. M'George, the Architect. This Church, the second with which he has beautified our village, and the fourteenth built under his direction, we feel assured, for taste in design and neatness in execution, is not surpassed by any in the western part of New York.

The expense of construction had been about $4,000. Many changes were made in its interior in the year 1857; modern slips took the place of the old-fashioned box shaped pews, and new carpets were provided. Again in 1873 $10,000 were subscribed for making thorough modern improvements, that year being the semi-centennial of the

existence of the building. The body of the church was wholly transformed; its bare walls were decorated with rich frescoes and delicate carved work, and the floors covered with bright new carpets, a large and imposing organ was procured and six memorial windows, presented by friends, recall the revered memories and noble examples of those whose good works will still remain after them. One in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Willcox, was the gift of their daughter, Mrs. A. A. Willcox, bearing as emblems a cross and calla lily entwined, and a cross with anchor and chain. The next adjoining is for Mrs. Sarah Chapman, and one for her son Mr. N. C. Chapman, was presented by the heirs of the latter in St. Louis. The first has figures of a crown and a bread fruit tree with sheaves of wheat above; the other of a chalice, cross and crown. Another bears the names of Mr. and Mrs. Epaphras Miller and their son, B. S. Miller, from the heirs of the former, with representations of sheaves of wheat and the Christian armor, helmet, sword and shield. There is also a window in memory of Mrs. Julia Vanderburgh, from her husband, Judge C. E. Vanderburgh of Minnesota, with designs of a harp and cross wreathed in flowers, the whole surmounted by the figure of a white dove with outspread wings. Another is the gift of Mrs. Caroline Baldwin of Minnesota, for her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Mygatt and their daughter Emily, having for emblems a chalice and sheaf of wheat surmounted by a crown. The rededication occurred May 6, 1874, when the sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. J. P. Gulliver, then of Binghamton, followed by an historical sketch by Rev. H. P. Collin, the pastor, with addresses by Revs. Samuel Scoville and J. C. Ward.

A parsonage was purchased in 1866 at a cost of $3,100. In 1887 a Memorial chapel was erected at a cost, with the lot, of upwards of $3,100, and dedicated February 1, 1888.

It was erected by Mrs. Henry L. Miller to the memory of her husband and presented to the church and society. The chapel is built in the Queen Anne style, the area of the building, 30x50 feet, standing on a high basement of beautiful rock-faced blue stone. A handsome cupola corresponding to the general style of the building adorns the roof, which is finished with ornamental work, the gables and sides being shingled to the line of the cornice. The interior of the rooms and vestibule is wainscoted in the old English style, and stained to imitate old cherry, neatly finished in hard oil. It is lighted by Cathedral windows upon either side, each one of a different colored design. A beautiful memorial tablet in marble and brass adorns the wall near the main entrance.

At the time of rededication in 1874, when fifty years had passed, three persons were members of the church who had been on the list for half a century: Mrs. Melinda Judson, Mrs. Mary Walker and Mrs. Lucia Symonds. The Hon. Solomon Bundy was the first child baptized in the first church.

On October 4 and 5, 1899, the Society celebrated its 100th anniversary, the opening remarks were made by Rev. Ward T. Sutherland, pastor, followed by prayer by Rev. Dr. B. F. Bradford of Upper Mont Clair, N. J. Addresses were made by Rev. J. W. Keeler of Greene, Rev. Henry P. Collin of Coldwater, Mich.; Hon. Wm. A. Sutherland of Rochester; Rev. Inman Willcox of Worcester, Mass.; Rev. Chas. N. Thorp of Oswego; Rev. James Chambers, D. D. of New York; Rev. Charles Janes and Rev. Ethan Curtis of Syracuse. A history of the Sunday school was given by Mrs. W. T. Sutherland; John E. Miller gave the history of the church, and Mrs. R. Yale of Norwich, a great granddaughter of the founder, Rev. John

Camp, supplied some interesting information in regard to him.

At a special term of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, held in Binghamton, May 3, 1904, Hon. Gerrit A. Forbes, Justice, granted a decree whereby "The Associated Presbyterian Society in Oxford" was changed to "The First Congregational Church and Society of Oxford."

In November, 1906, there was placed on the east and west walls of the interior of the church two bronze tablets, one in memory of Ebenezer Huntington Coville and his wife, Thankful Cook Hotchkiss, and another in memory of Joseph Addison Coville and his wife, Lydia S. More. The memorials were placed there by Dr. Luzerne Coville of Ithaca, and Frederick V. Coville of Washington, grandchildren and children respectively. The tablets are artistic and oblong in shape. The inscriptions on the tablets read as follows:

Ebenezer Huntington Coville
1784——1838
Thankful Cook Hotchkiss
1786——1884
Natives of Burlington, Conn., and Settlers of Preston, N. Y., 1809. Tithemen and Covenanters of this Church at its Establishment. She was a Member of this Church and Presbytery

Joseph Addison Coville
1820-——1895
Lydia S. More
1828——1904
He was a native of Preston, N. Y. Later a Resident of Oxford and Trustee of this Church. She was a Native of Roxbury, N. Y., and a Member of this Church and Congregation.

The succession of the ministers is as follows: Revs. John Camp, 1799; Eli Hyde, 1808; Edward Andrews, 1818; Marcus Harrison, 1822; J. D. Wickham, D. D., 1823, died May 12, 1891, in his 95th year; Elijah D. Wells, 1826; Charles Gilbert, 1829; James Abell, 1830; George W. Bassett, 1837; Arthur Burtis, D. D., 1839; William H. Richards, 1846; Charles Jerome, 1847; Henry Callahan, 1850; Elliott H. Payson, 1862; Charles F. Janes, 1870; Henry P. Collin, 1873; Henry N. Payne, 1879; B. F. Bradford, D. D., 1881; Howard Billman, 1889; W. T. Sutherland, 1893; Theodore W. Harris, 1903, present pastor.

REUBEN BANCROFT was a good physician, a man of genius and very eccentric in his ways. He was a cousin of George Bancroft, the historian, a native of Connecticut, and educated at Litchfield, where he received his diploma from the Connecticut Medical Society in February, 1816. He soon after came to Oxford and commenced practicing with no advantage of friends and fortune, but with a heart bent upon success. His ruling ambition was to excel in the profession of his choice; to this the entire energies of his life were devoted, and in it he succeeded to an eminent degree. His residence was on the site of the house now owned by Frank T. Corbin on Clinton street. He always kept a fine horse, but was seldom seen occupying the saddle, and when in the greatest hurry went on foot leading the animal. He died in Oxford January 21, 1847, aged 52.

MUNSON SMITH, a prominent farmer in the eastern part of the town, was born March 4, 1819, and died August 3, 1893. He married April 7, 1841, Lauraette Dodge, born June 30, 1819; died July 15, 1901. Children: HARRIETT, married Joseph Spohn; THEODORE, married Kittie Doty; ADA, married Charles M. Stone.

Lay hold of life with both hands, whenever
thou mayest seize it, it is interesting,—GOETHE.

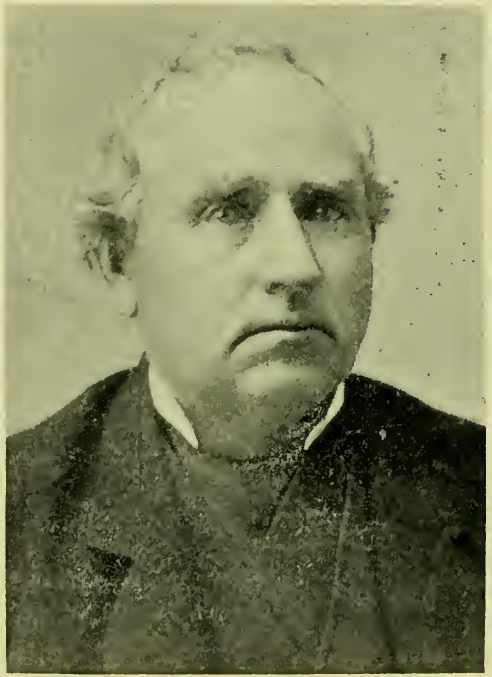
Charles Eccleston.

Charles Eccleston, born September 13, 1795, in Preston, N. Y.; died December 26, 1873, in Oxford; married December 24, 1824, Mary Lewis, born November 18, 1804, in Preston; died January 27, 1883, at the residence of her daughter, Harriet, in Bainbridge, N. Y.

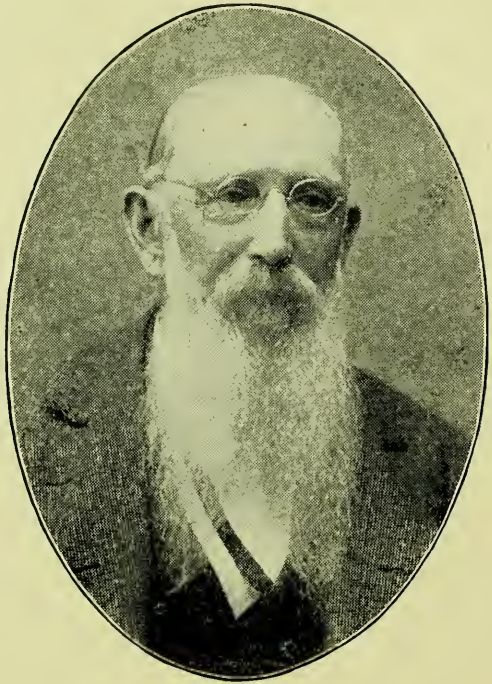
Mr. Eccleston and family came to Oxford in 1850. On the night of September 18, 1851, the Oxford House, which he had but recently purchased and moved into, together with the barns and out buildings, and the barn of Major J. V. N. Locke, were entirely consumed by fire. The house occupied the site of Dr. C. H. Eccleston's residence, and was for many years kept by David Brigham, a prominent hotel man of that day. The fire originated in the barn, which was entirely enveloped in flames when discovered. A large portion of the furniture was saved from the hotel. It was only by the extraordinary exertions of firemen and citizens, and the providential fact that the night was perfectly tranquil, that the adjoining houses of Messrs. T. G. Newkirk and J. V. N. Locke were saved. Had either been burned a large portion of one of our most beautiful streets must inevitably have been swept away. The hotel property was insured for $1,000.

Children of Charles and Mary (Lewis) Eccleston, all born in Preston:

CHARLES H., born May 28, 1826; married January 22,



SAMUEL W. KINNEY



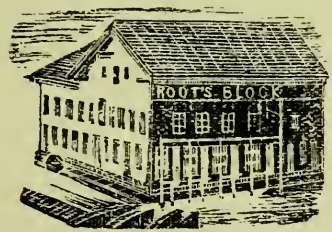
DR. CHAS. H. ECCLESTON

1851, Amanda N. Foote of Franklin, N. Y. Children: Charles, G., married Minnie Cook of Oxford; Edson F., married Clara B. Homer of Elmira; Maria, married Dr. Geo. D. Johnson of Oxford; Mary McC., and Walter L.

Harriet C., born June 4, 1828; married June 2, 1847, Leroy L. Eccleston, born at Preston, N. Y., September 22, 1824; died January 4, 1902, in Bainbridge. For many years they were residents of Oxford. Children; Erwin D., Freeman W., and William A.

David L., born December 27, 1829; died March 20, 1849, in Preston.

Noyes B., born September 8, 1833; married September 8, 1858, Mary E. Willson of Chenango Forks, N. Y. He was educated at Oxford Academy, and for a number of years was engaged in the jewelry business, though a greater portion of his life has been devoted to the drug business. For a short time he represented a wholesale house on the road. Mr. Eccleston is now doing a flourishing business at the Central Drug Store, Oxford.



Dr. C. H. Eccleston lived on a farm in Preston with his parents until 1845, when he entered Oxford Academy and the following year Norwich Academy. In 1847 he began the study of dentistry in the office of Dr. E. H. Parmlee in Norwich, having previously clerked in a jewelry store, and become quite adept at engraving on wood and copper plate. The wood cut above is a specimen of his early handiwork, and represents the old Root block (now Cor-

ner store) in which was located his first dental office, and a portion of the old wooden bridge that spanned the canal close by. In May, 1848, Dr. Eccleston began practice in Corning, N. Y., but shortly thereafter removed to Utica, where he practiced a short time and then came to Oxford in 1849. Here he practiced his profession and in spare hours made moulds for and manufactured teeth. Later he took a course of instruction under Dr. N. W. Kingsley in carving and making block or sectional teeth, and in 1860 organized the Union Tooth company for the manufacture of artificial teeth, which was a successful venture, the teeth being sold to dentists throughout the United States and in many foreign lands. Of an inventive mind he perfected and patented many articles in use in his business. In 1901 Dr. and Mrs. Eccleston happily celebrated their golden wedding, at which numerous relatives and friends were present.

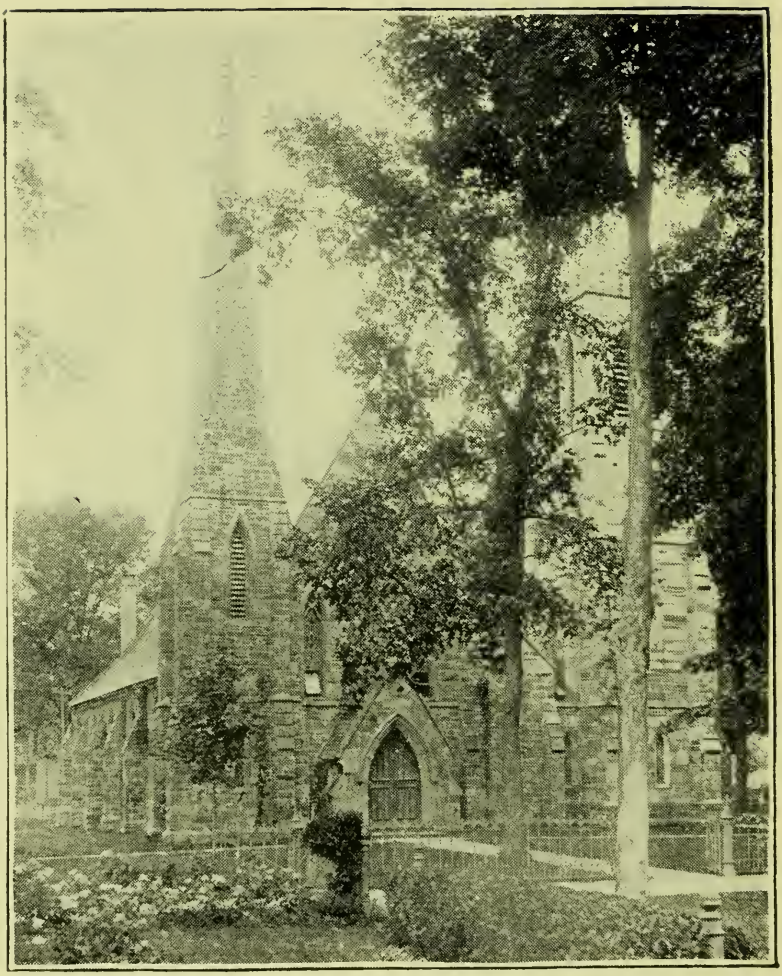
THE FOLLOWING is copied from the town records and explains itself:

Strays 1797. Received Personal Information of James Phelps, that he has now in his possession a red brindle Ox, he supposes straid from the owner, about four or five Years of age last spring, no artificial mark; his right horn appears to have been broken, and now grown out a new about four inches long a much larger Size than the other.

Sign'd Elihu Murray, Clk.

October 25th, 1797.

LAMBERT INGERSOLL, whose father, Oliver Ingersoll, came from Great Barrington, Mass., about 1802, and settled in Guilford, located on the east line of Oxford, and afterwards removed into the village, where he died September 16, 1849, aged 67. Polly, his wife, died March 16, 1867, aged 76.



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Where, through the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault,
The pealing anthem swells the note of praise.—GRAY.

St. Paul's Church.

The occasional erection of structures to religion and science, mark eras in our village history frought with peculiar local interest; such events scattered along the track of years give pleasing assurance of internal improvement in those matters which most nearly concern our hearts and homes. They furnish occasion too, for grateful recollection of those early pioneers who, as soon as they had surrounded themselves with the necessities of life, set about the work of laying deep and firm the foundation of religion, virtue and intelligence.

The first meeting of the friends of Episcopacy was held at the house of Abijah Lobdell, Jr., May 23, 1814, for the purpose of forming a church under the statue, to be called St. Paul's church, Oxford. Captain Frederick Hopkins and Captain John Backus were the first elected wardens; Ebenezer Hull, William M. Price, John Spoor, John Church, Peter Burghardt, General Ransom Rathbone, Chauncey Morgan and Abijah Lobdell, Jr., were elected vestrymen of the new parish. Rev. William B. Lacy then officiated during one half the year in the Academy, as would appear from a resolution of thanks January 3, 1815, to General Rathbone "for his spirited exertions in preparing and ornamenting the Academy for Christmas day."

It is said that on that occasion it was profusely decorated with evergreens, and a tallow dip was in front of every

seven by nine pane of glass. A choir was formed led by Captain Farnham, Austin Hyde and General Rathbone, as first, second and third choiristers, respectively.

"Oh, I need not a wing;—bid no genii come
With a wonderful web from Arabian loom,
To bear me again up the river of Time,
* * * * * * * * * *
For a sprig of green caraway carries me there,
To the old village church and the old village choir,
Where clear of the floor my feet slowly swung
And timed the sweet pulse of the praise that they sung,
Till the glory aslant from the afternoon sun
Seemed the rafters of gold in God's temple begun!"

Efforts were early made to procure a suitable place of worship. Henry VanDerLyn interested himself in the circulation of a subscription for this purpose, and on February 23, 1815, the amount subscribed having reached $1,995, a contract was executed with Smith & McGeorge to build an edifice, forty by fifty feet, for $2,250. The first inducement at that early day to build so large a church came from a source that many would object to in these times. A gentleman residing in New York city drew $10,000 in a lottery, and shortly after moved to Oxford and gave $1,000 toward the building fund. The church was consecrated September 8, 1816, by Bishop Hobart, and stood for nearly half a century. The first site selected was what is now the park on Fort Hill square, upon lands conveyed by the village trustees. The location seemed more controlled by necessity and a regard to economy than by any sense of beauty or taste. By this location the vestry came into collision with Platt Brush of New York city, who owned a lot in the rear of the church, and who claimed that although their intentions were otherwise very pious, they had no right to shut him out from the common. The matmer was, however, amicably adjusted. This position exposed the building and those who worshipped there to va-

rious annoyances, and it was removed in 1842 to a lot adjacent to the Academy. The building was taken in 1864 to Chenango Forks and is still used for a church edifice. This apparently was the first church edifice erected in the village. A bell was purchased in 1818, which was then the only one in the county. The first rector, Rev. Wm. B. Lacey, was a good sized man though not tall. His coat-tails nearly reached the ground, and a white handkerchief hung by one corner from the pocket, pinned in no doubt, presenting a comical appearance.

In 1855 and '56 the building of the present church edifice engaged the attention of the parish, and $10,000 was subscribed towards that object. Its construction was commenced in 1856 and was finished in 1857, at a cost of $13,-387, and consecrated October 14, 1857, by Bishop Coxe.

The chapel was begun in 1859, and completed and paid for in 1860. In 1861 the iron fence around the church was built at a cost of $1,505. In 1873, $4,000 was subscribed for the purpose of adding a stone porch and bell tower to the church. In 1870 a new organ was purchased at a cost of $3,200. In 1877 the interior of the church was richly decorated, newly carpeted, and a new bell hung, at a cost of about $2,000.

The first communion was held December 18, 1815, at which time there were seven communicants: Samuel Ross and wife, Margaret Ross, Catherine Rathbone, Ebenezer Hull, Lucinda Backus, Ursula Perkins, Susan Tracy.

Of the partarkers of the first communion ever held in St. Paul's church, the following were those who were at the seventh on December 8, 1816: Uri Tracy, Ruth Tracy, Frederick Hopkins, Asenath Spoor, Patty (Church) Daily, Flora Jackson.

The following have been the successive rectors of this

parish: Revs. William B. Lacey, D. D., 1814-18; Leverett Bush, D. D., 1818-42; Thomas Towell, 1822-44; T. R. Chipman, 1842-44; Benj. W. Stone, D. D., 1845-50; S. son Coxe, 1850-53; Mannsell VanRensselaer, 1853-54; S. Hanson Coxe, 1854-57; D. H. Macurdy, 1857-65; Walter Ayrault, D. D., 1865-75; Robert M. Duff, D. D., 1875-79; J. M. C. Fulton, 1879; Edwin M. Colloque, 1881; Charles DuBois Broughton, 1901, the present rector.

The glass chandeliers in the church possess a historic interest. These, with one other destroyed by fire in the burning of the Episcopal church at Scarsdale, N. Y., in April, 1882, were sent from England before the Revolutionary war to the corporation of Trinity church in New York city, and were long in use in St. George's chapel, Beekman street, having been once in the meanwhile safely removed from the burning building, which was afterwards rebuilt. In 1868, when the demands of business finally rendered its removal necessary, the daughters of Gerrit H. VanWagenen, for many years a warden of the parish, made application for the chandeliers, which was granted. and St. Paul's church received them in the same year. About 1879, the missing pieces, and those broken in transportation, were replaced at a cost of over $200, from which can be judged the considerable value of the property destroyed. On September 12, 1882, while the largest of the five chandeliers was being cleaned, the rod supporting it became loosened from the ceiling and it fell with a crash, being totally wrecked.

A story is told of the first visit to Oxford of Bishop Walker, after he became Bishop of Western New York. He prefaced his sermon by saying, that he felt at home as soon as he entered the church, for what did he behold but the same crystal chandeliers he had watched for years in old St. George's, during his boyhood, with the exciting

anticipation, and, he must confess, wish, that some of those pendants might fall on the heads of the grave and reverend worshippers. He paid more attention to the chandeliers than to the sermon in those days.

In the spring of 1891, $2,400 was laid out in repairs and repointing the stone work and rebuilding the top of the square bell tower. Beautiful memorials of friends departed have been placed in the church. New windows in the body of the edifice with redecorated sidewalls and brass prayer desks, for members of the family of Mr. F. G. Clarke. A brass angel-lectern to the memory of Mrs. Julia Clapp Newberry, accompanied by a solid silver communion service, gold lined. An altar-rail with brass standards to the memory of William and Ursula (Glover) VanWagenen. A costly and artistic brass pulpit "To the memory of Wilhelmina Maria, Sarah Brinckerhoff, and Catherine, daughters of Gerrit H. VanWagenen." An electrolier in memory of Mrs. Catherine O. Packard, and a brass Litany desk to the memory of Mrs. Sarah Eliza (Mygatt) Sands.

In 1893 James Clapp, who died while traveling in Egypt, bequeathed $2,000 for the use of the church and $1,000 for the stained glass window which was placed in the chancel in April, 1895. The design represents St. Paul on Mars Hill, and is wrought in fabrile glass in colors soft and rich. The central figure is St. Paul, but the others are imaginary characters. The portion of a building represented is a part of the Acropolis, Athens. At the base of the window is a brass plate with the following inscription:

To the Glory of God
and in Memory of the
Butler-Clapp-Newbury Family
1895

This was a way to thrive, and he was blest.—SHAKESPEARE.

Bernard Farrell.

Bernard Farrell, who lived for thirty-four years in the town of Oxford, died at his home in South Oxford, February 11, 1890, at the advanced age of 97 years.

Mr. Farrell was born in County Longford, Ireland, in the year 1793, and came to America in 1842, on a sailing vessel, which was thirteen weeks making the passage. A few months later he came to Chenango county and located in the town of Smithville, near Tyner, then called "Sod."

Of an agricultural turn of mind, which pursuit he followed through life, he had no difficulty in finding plenty of work, and being thrifty was enabled about the year 1845 to send to Ireland for his wife and four children to join him in this country. They lived in Smithville and Preston until 1866, and then came into this town to spend the remainder of their days. Mary McCormick, wife of Mr. Farrell, was born in County Leitrim, Ireland, in 1806, and died at her home in South Oxford, November 13, 1886, aged 80 years. To them were born eight children, two died in childhood in Ireland. Their eldest son, EDMUND, was killed on the railroad at South Oxford, April 11, 1873, aged 43 years. RICHARD, died in New York city, May 6, 1891, aged 55. For a number of years in the commission business. His wife, Mary Kennedy of New Brunswick, N. J., died in New York city, April 5, 1904, aged 63. (Children: Edmund, William, Frank, John, died in

1902, Mary, Annie, Loretta.) BRIDGET, died in Oxford, November 23, 1904, aged 68. Married Thomas H. Donnelly of Choconut, Penn. (Children: The first child died in infancy; Augustus, resides in Chicago, unmarried; Frank E., married Jean Lee of Wilkesbarre, Penn., where he resides; Mary Agnes, married John J. Lillis of Oxford; Isabel, married Lewis A. Foote of Scranton, where she resides; Richard J., married Catherine P. Crowley of New Haven, Conn., and is a resident of that city.) BERNARD, JOHN and PETER A., all unmarried, reside on the homestead at South Oxford. The latter went to New York in April, 1873, and after working a few years for his brother Richard, entered into partnership with him in the commission business, which lasted for several years. Later he conducted the business alone and after a while disposed of it and returned to Oxford.

FROM THE OXFORD GAZETTE, May 22, 1822: A footman, a few days since traveling from this village, and a few miles from it, came in contact with several young cattle in the public road, and not having a very conscientious idea of *meum et tuum,* took them into his possession, drove them directly past the house of their owner and sold them at a short distance farther on, put the money in his pocket and escaped.

SEVERE HAIL STORM.—May 18, 1822, a severe hail storm visited this village. Considerable damage was done, though the duration of the storm did not exceed two minutes. More than 2000 panes of glass were destroyed. Some of the hail stones measured three inches in circumference.

I know the dancin's nonsense; but if you stick at everything because it's nonsense, you wonna go far i' this life.
—GEORGE ELIOT.

Chenango Canal Ball.

On the 7th of March, 1833, a ball was held in Oxford to celebrate the passage of the canal bill. The assembly room was on the third floor of the hotel now known as the Hotchkiss House, the only public hall the village then had. The hour appointed for the festivities to begin was at five in the afternoon, whether this was on account of the smallness of the room and that all might have a chance

"To brisk notes in cadence beating,
Glance their many twinkling feet,"

in honor of the great undertaking, or that the beaux and belles retired in good season the writer knoweth not. The invitation reads as follows:

Chenango Canal Ball.



THE MANAGERS respectfully solicit the company of Mr.

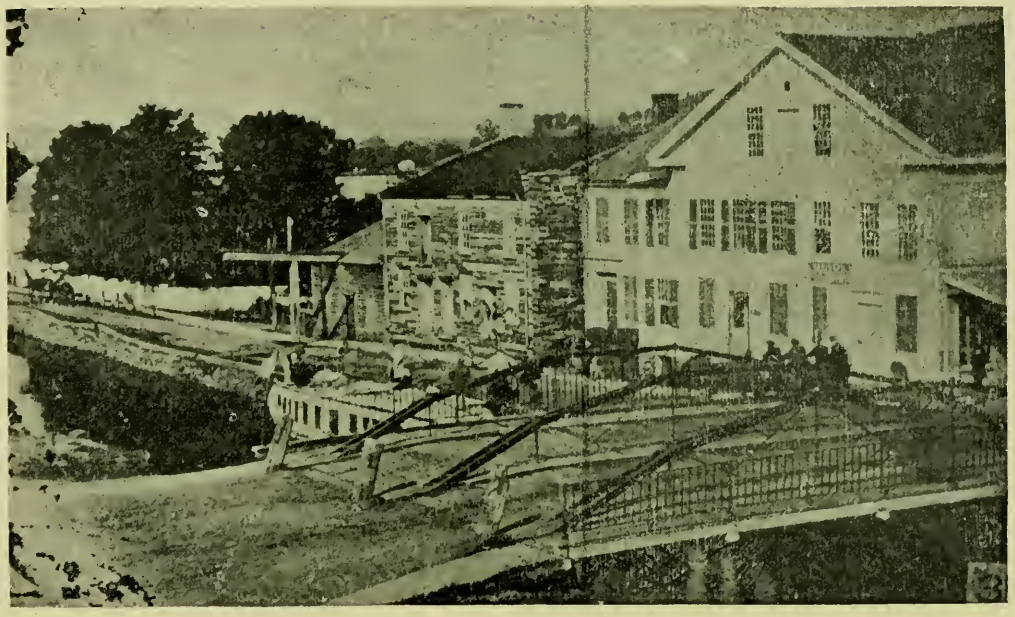
Henry Balcom & Lady.

at the Assembly Room of E. CLARKE, in Oxford, on Thursday, the 7th inst, at 5 o'clock, P. M.

RANSOM RATHBONE,		LUKE BALCOM,
HENRY MYGATT,		JOHN DONELLY,
ETHAN CLARKE,		J. VAN WAGENEN,
EP. MILLER,	*Oxford.*	W. G. SANDS,
J. P. FARNHAM,		H. W. RATHBONE,
T. G. NEWKIRK,		J. G. THORP,
E. SHERWOOD,		N. H. ORMSBEE,
ROBERT MONELL,	*Greene.*	FRED'K JULIAND,
JOHN CLAPP,	*Norwich.*	W. M. CONKEY,
LEVI BIGELOW,	*Bainbridge.*	J. B. CLARKE,

ROBERT PAGE, *Unadilla.*

DATED OXFORD, MARCH 1ST, 1833.



THE OLD "CORNER STORE" IN CANAL DAYS. IRON BRIDGE WHICH REPLACED WOODEN STRUCTURE
The Packet Boat Shown plied between Binghamton and Norwich

Like leaves on trees the race of man is found.—
Now green in youth now withered on the ground;
Another race the following spring supplies;
They fall successive; and successive rise.—HOMER.

Thomas Gibson.

Thomas Gibson was born at "Westmoreland," St. James Parish, Barbados, W. I., in 1784; died December 4, 1868, in Oxford. Married Sarah E. Swan, born in 1788; died October 31, 1840, in Oxford.

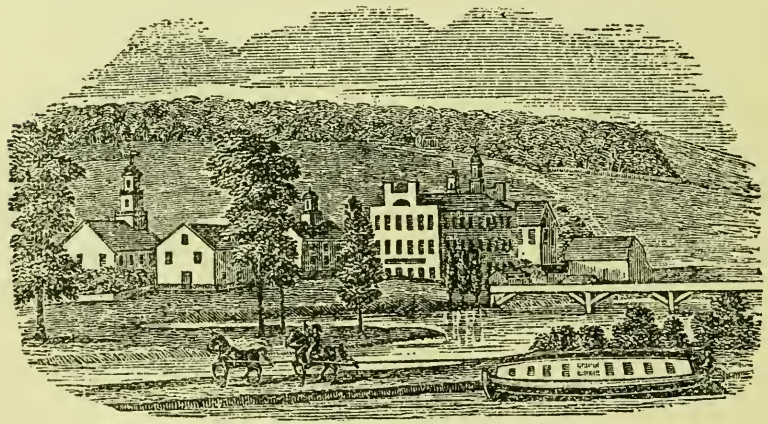
Thomas Gibson and a friend, Richard Farmer, came to Oxford in 1821, and purchased adjoining farms in South Oxford, the latter remained here but a few years, selling his farm and returning to the West Indies, from where he came. Mr. Gibson sold his farm to Benjamin Welch and in 1834 moved into the village to the house on Washington Square now occupied by Dr. Charles E. Thompson. Children:

SUSAN, married George Farnham, died in 1826.
ROWLAND THOMAS, died in 1832, unmarried.
SAMUEL SWAN, married Maria Marsh, died in 1851.
JOHN WILLIAM, died in 1857, unmarried.
JOSEPH, died in 1837, unmarried.
FRANCIS MILLER, died in 1844, unmarried.
MARY ELIZABETH, married Warren Delano Smith, who died in 1859. Had three children one only surviving. Frances M., who resides with her mother at Chappaqua, New York.

Pictures must not be too picturesque.—EMERSON.

River Bridge and Fort Hill in 1840.

In the year 1840 two gentlemen, John W. Barber and Henry Howe, authors of various historical works, gathered the materials and compiled a volume pertaining to the early history of the State of New York. This book embraced the more prominent and interesting events connected with the county histories, and illustrated with some 230 engravings.



Among these we find a view, which we reproduce, representing the central part of the village of Oxford. This picture was obtained from a position on the west bank of the Chenango canal not far above Dr. R. E. Miller's residence, in the fall of 1840, and presents an excellent outline of the principal public buildings of our village at that early date. At the left stands the Congregational church with its old fashioned steeple, a pattern which still holds

a sacred place in the hearts of old timers. Next is the mammoth barn of the Fort Hill House. The Academy with cupola, appearing between the large barn and the Fort Hill buildings, was built in 1830-31 on a site next to the Baptist parsonage. Beyond the brick block, on the site of the old Fort, may be seen the Baptist church with its tall spire; the lower spire at the left belonged to the old Episcopal church, which stood east of the Academy building. The river bridge, then of much greater length than the iron bridge, was built in 1823, the fourth in the order of their erection. The Fort Hill House with the block of stores extending down to the bridge, having just been burned enables us to see across Fort Hill to the old Academy. The grounds about the site of the Indian fort, with its traditions and relics of arrow heads, hatchets, bones and pottery, have always been objects of the greatest interest to our inhabitants. The Chenango canal had been running but a few years, and a clever picture of the packet, driver and team add much to the finish of our cut.

DANIEL SHUMWAY, a native of Oxford, Mass., came to this village in 1806, where he resided twenty-seven years. He was the first hatter in Oxford, and sold "Castor, Rorum and Water proof Hats of Superior quality." His factory was opposite the VanDerLyn house. In 1833 he went to Steuben county with many others from Chenango county to engage in lumbering, and died at Beecher's Island, Penn., May 10, 1848, aged 68. He was universally esteemed for his integrity, kindness of heart and public spirit. A son, Daniel H. Shumway, M. D., died January 2, 1861, in Berlin, Wis., aged 43 years.

With mug in hand to wet his whistle
—Cotton.

Levi Breed.

Levi Breed, an eccentric colored character, was well known up and down the valley, and often made his home in this village. His parents were slaves in Connecticut and removed to Norwich with Deacon Elias Breed about the year 1808. Levi received a good common school education, and at "spelling bees" it was not uncommon for him to "spell down" the boys and girls. In later life he was dubbed "Counsellor," having picked up a smattering of law from text books loaned him. At a colored celebration in Binghamton, July 6, 1857, he delivered an address, which was published and favorably noticed by the press. The last years of his life he traveled, often a foot, between Oxford and Norwich, gathering rags, and carrying messages from one town to the other. He died at Norwich in the fall of 1873, aged 65. As early as 1835 he lived at the foot of "Button" lane in this village. Among his children were a daughter, Sarah Maria Reynolds, who became a missionary teacher and died August 18, 1855, in Liberia, Africa, while yet in young womanhood; and a son, Robert, who in his early youth attended the district school on State street, and was known as Bobby Breed. A Mr. Trip was the teacher, who had three modes of punishment for unruly scholars: the ferule, a turkey quill with which to snap the ears of his pupils, and a piece of leather suspended from the ceiling. The latter was called "chewing the cud." Pupils could have their choice of punishment, and Bobby Breed was the only one who chewed the "cud," standing on tip toe to reach the leather with his mouth, and chewing until the master released him from his uncomfortable position.

His heart as far from fraud as heaven from earth.
—SHAKESPEARE.

Charles B. Haynes.

Charles B. Haynes was born July 18, 1793, in Princeton, Mass., and came to Oxford in 1834, where he died August 6, 1879. He married November 18, 1821, Sarah Mead, who was born October 23, 1797, in Rutland, Mass., and died March 28, 1867, in Oxford.

Mr. Haynes, on his arrival in Oxford with his family, purchased a farm at Haynes, which, after occupying for a number of years, he sold to his son Edwin, and moved into the village. Here he remained but a short time, not being satisfied with village life, and then bought a farm on the east side of the river at South Oxford, near the Greene town line. Five of his children were born in Massachusetts, and two in this town.

CHARLES CHAUNCEY, married Harriet M. Grant of Cambridge, Mass.; died June 8, 1896, in Binghamton.

WILLIAM, married Ursula Turner of Preston, and moved to Steamboat Rock, Iowa. Died in November, 1906.

EDWIN M., married Rhoby U. Keach of Preston; died suddenly May 24, 1888, while on a business trip to Philadelphia, Pa.

SARAH E., married March 26, 1856, Stephen A. Sheldon of Oxford; died March 14, 1901, in Oxford.

ESTHER A., married Lemuel Bolles, and moved to Binghamton, now resides in Oxford.

ALMIRA, married Robert T. Davidson of Oxford.

MARY E., married George E. Stevens; died October 22, 1874, at Fort Wayne, Ind.

Character is a diamond that scratches every other stone.
—Bartol.

Mead Family.

Gideon Mead came from Port Chester, Conn., in 1804, bringing with him his wife and three children: Sarah Maria, six years of age, and twin boys, Andrew and Sylvanus, four years younger. They stopped with Andrew Miller, who kept a tavern at South Oxford, and stayed until he could clear a place large enough to build a house. He then moved upon the land he had purchased, reared a family of eight children, one daughter and seven sons, and died October 28, 1851, aged 80 years. Mr. Mead was buried on the homestead. Children:

Sarah Maria, married William Banks of Bainbridge. Children: James, Samuel, Mary, John, Charles.

Andrew, married Lydia Ann Dickinson, died November 14, 1851, aged 49. Children: Whitman, died in infancy; Mary; Sarah, married Joseph J. Hull of Oxford.

Sylvanus, married Lucretia Bartoo, died while on a visit to his son Philo at McPherson, Kan., August 12, 1882, aged 80. His accuracy in repeating scripture was truly wonderful. It is told that, being wakeful one night, he repeated the whole book of James, the 119th Psalm, and the 15th chapter of First Corinthians. Mr. Mead had two sons, Philo S., married Alverda Minor, resides at McPherson, Kan.; William, married Adella Padgett, and died in 1906 at Guilford.

James, married Nancy Cooley, and lived at Laurens,

Otsego county. Children: William, Mary, Morris, Damon, Albert, Frances, Augusta.

WHITMAN, moved to Ohio and married Jane Hanson. Children: Charles, George, James, Helen, Stella.

HENRY, married Sarah Maria Waterman, who died April 13, 1870; lived on a part of the old homestead. Died October 10, 1872. Children: Adelaide, died Feb. 5, 1901; Polly Ann, unmarried; Henry W., married Mary E. Cone; George P., unmarried, a prominent business man of Oxford.

UNDERHILL, married (1) Eliza Ann Tyler, died January 18, 1853, aged 33; married (2) Catherine Waterman. Children by second wife: Eliza, Smith, Sackett H., Lackawanna station agent at Oxford, married Marion Davis; James, Merritt, Lottie.

SACKETT, married Anna Collins; lived and died in Covington, Ky. Children: William W., Omer.

LARGE FLOCKS OF PIGEONS—During the spring of 1822 innumerable flocks of pigeons filled the air in every direction. In the woods they occupied a space for nesting nearly ten miles in length and from two to five in width. Every tree and bush was literally covered with them and their nests. Hunters who spent but two or three hours in the woods returned with from one to two hundred pigeons. So thick were they that twenty or thirty were killed in a single shot. Five thousand were killed in one day.

Now spurs the lated traveler apace
To gain the timely inn.—SHAKESPEARE.

Andrew Miller.

Andrew Miller, born February 15, 1743, in Connecticut, died April 11, 1812, in South Oxford. He married Sarah Lyon, daughter of Gilbert and Jane (Kniffen) Lyon, born January 28, 1748, and died March 22, 1813, in South Oxford.

Mr. Miller came to South Oxford about the year 1803, from Rye, N. Y., and settled on the north side of the brook at Coventry station, the farm on which he and his wife died and were buried. He kept a tavern for a number of years, at which settlers often remained until they could locate and erect a cabin for their families. The stone sign post in front of the tavern remained standing until the summer of 1905, when a runaway team collided with it and thus an old landmark was removed.

In early times, when it took three days to hold an election, the second day session was held at Miller's tavern in the afternoon. The polls were opened in the forenoon at Parks' tavern on the west side of the river, and at noon transferred to Miller's on the east side, the majority of the voters following the ballot box from one district to the other. Quoit pitching, wrestling, and kindred outdoor amusements were heartily entered into by men who came early in the day and remained until long after the polls were closed. The landlord did a thriving business and very few quarrels arose, owing to the purity of the liquor sold.

Mr. Miller, who was something of a surgeon, was often called upon to perform operations for his neighbors, which usually terminated successfully. His children were:

THOMAS, born November 3, 1768.

SARAH, born May 25, 1771.

MARY, born June 14, 1774; died October 12, 1832; married Gideon Mead.

ABIGAIL, born September 11, 1778; married Daniel Wilson.

ANDREW, born January 8, 1782; died April 30, 1865; married Zeruah Mowry, born October 14, 1782, died March 25, 1860. They lived, died, and were buried on the farm his father had cleared. Children: Inman L., born June 14, 1808, married Permelia Symonds; John G., born October 12, 1809, married Hannah Race; Albert S., born April 7, 1811, married Laura Race; Sarah, born July 31, 1813, married Harvey Jacobs; Uri T., born May 23, 1815, died unmarried; Andrew, born April 7, 1817, died unmarried; Thomas, born November 11, 1819, married Susan Maine; Mary, born March 5, 1821, married William Race; Daniel W., born February 9, 1823, died unmarried; James U., born July 11, 1825, married Angeline Symonds.

UNDERHILL, born July 14, 1788; died May 8, 1861; married Mary Symonds.

JOSIAH.

Children of Inman L. and Permelia (Symonds) Miller:

HENRY, born August 10, 1834; died September 26, 1905; married Emmogene Lamb. Lived and died on same farm occupied by his father and grandfather. Children: Josephine, married Alvin Webb; Robert, adopted son, married Sarah L. Taylor, of Madison, N. Y.

LAVINNA, born January 12, 1837; married Charles Wilcox.

LUCIA, born September 17, 1839; married George L. McNeil.

GEORGE, born February 28, 1843; died January 27, 1898; married Amanda Miller. Child: Ella May, married Joseph Rounds.

JOHN, born May 2, 1846; died March 28, 1849.

AMOS A. HITCHCOCK, known as "Gusta," came to this village in the year 1849, and with M. Augustus Perry purchased of Thomas Morris the Stage House, now Hotchkiss House. The partnership was dissolved in April, 1850, by Mr. Perry retiring. Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock earned golden opinions as host and hostess of the Stage House, winning the respect of all by honesty and integrity of purpose and action. He died April 7, 1866, aged 57. Lucy L., his wife, born February 3, 1812, in Sherburne, N. Y., died January 15, 1889, in Wilkesbarre, Pa. She was a grandniece of President Monroe. They had one daughter, Mary M., who became the wife of Horace S. Chamberlain February 13, 1866. He died January 20, 1900, in Wilkesbarre, Pa.

ROBERT BROOKSBANK was born at Market Weighton, Yorkshire, England, January 3, 1779. He came to Troy in 1804, and in 1816 moved to Oxford, and was one of the old residents of the east part of the town. He died January 11, 1856, aged 77. Barbara, his wife, was born in Troy, and died in Oxford, November 19, 1881, aged 100 years and five months. Descendants of theirs are still living in town.

Buried were all war-like weapons,
And the war-cry was forgotten;
Then was peace among the nations.
—LONGFELLOW.

Independence Day, 1865.

There was no public celebration of the national birthday in Oxford in 1865, but there was everywhere prevalent a spirit of quiet joy, which extended itself throughout all classes and ages. All business ceased and the day wore a holiday attire. The dark horizon of the previous four years had been illuminated with joyful light, and the very air seemed pervaded with a sense of peace. The day was delightful and everybody seemed to take to picnics. Indeed one might have supposed that the entire community regarded that the declaration of rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, ennuciated by the patriots of '76, was a little else than an assertion of the right and duty of universal picnicking. About nine o'clock in the morning two canal boats laden with the devotees of freedom in the open air, and such things as make such freedom enjoyable, moved off for Lake Warn, accompanied by the Oxford Band. After a fill of those things which make patriotic stomachs, the company proceeded to a platform under the trees, where Dr. J. W. Thorp, then of the Academy faculty, clearly and forcibly read the Declaration of Independence, and Mr. L. R. Brewer, now Bishop Brewer, in an eloquent address, did justice to the day and its glorious memories.

There were other picnics at the Halfway House, Ludlow pond, feeder dam; one on the East hill by the chil-

dren, and one on the lawn at the residence of Thomas G. Newkirk, Clinton street.

The Clinton street gathering was an extemporized neighborhood affair. A rope was strung from tree to tree in front of the house on which branches were suspended, hiding the company from the gaze of the street. National flags in profusion waved to the breeze, and a large banner floated over the entrance way. The table, reaching from end to end of the yard, was literally loaded with the finest viands that the Clinton street ladies could, and did, provide. The company, numbering fifty neighbors and invited guests, were seated for an hour, and heartily enjoyed the repast and sparkling wit. At the close Prof. D. G. Barber, in a voice of deep eloquence, read the Declaration of Independence, and sentiments appropriate to the day and to the patriotic ladies of Clinton street were offered by Henry VanDerLyn, Esq., and others. The company with three cheers for "our country," separated and long held in memory the picnic of Independence Day, 1865.

"AUNT" SALLY ANN SANNICKS, of African descent and born a slave, came to this town about the year 1819 from Dutchess county and was in service in the family of Gerardus VanDerLyn. She united with the Methodist church in 1820 and could recall the time when it included but two families. She was seldom absent from her place of worship and testified the reality of her profession by a bequest in her will, from her scanty estate, of $150 to the Methodist church of this village. By the income from the bequest a memorial window has been placed in the church to her memory. She died November 20, 1882, aged 88.

Nature to each allots his proper sphere.
—CONGREVE.

Horatio H. Cooke.

Horatio Haskell Cooke was a son of Deacon Philip Cooke, an early and respected resident of this town, whose farm was situated on Painter (Panther) Hill. He was a lineal descendant of Nicholas Cooke, the last Royal Governor of Rhode Island, and the first Governor of the State after the Revolution. He was also a direct descendant of Anna Greene, a member of the well known Rhode Island family, of which Nathaniel Greene was the most distinguished member. Mr. Cooke was born at Columbus, N. Y., but nearly his whole life was spent in Oxford. When a young man he was connected with a newspaper published here, and later was engaged in the hardware business, his brother-in-law, David Brown, being his partner. About 1854 he moved to Western New York, and was employed in the construction of the Great Western R. R. between Suspension Bridge and St. Catharines. After a few years he returned to Oxford, and was canal collector at this port for years, and also Justice of the Peace at different times for several terms. He was station agent for the D., L. & W. R. R. Co. from the time the road opened for fourteen years, until a few years before the time of his death, and resigned the position on account of ill health. He died suddenly January 21st, 1887. Mr. Cooke was closely connected with the history of Oxford for half a century, and was an honorable, upright, and much respected citizen. October 6, 1841, he was married to Elizabeth W. Cornish, daughter of Whiting Cornish of Coven-

try. There were three children: Mary, Philip H., and Catharine. Mary died at the age of three years. Philip H. Cooke was one of the many Oxford boys who chose telegraphy as a profession, and for years has held official positions, first with the Western Union, and afterwards with the Postal Telegraph Co. He was married July 11th, 1871, to Emma J. Coffin, at Montgomery, Ala. Catharine was married on September 9, 1880, to Delos M. Aylesworth of this place, who died June 26, 1883. She still resides in Oxford.

CALEB P. THURBER, born October 3, 1795, in Cooperstown, came to Oxford from Delhi in 1824. At the latter place he was a member of the first fire company organized in that village in 1821, and outlived all the original members. He was a shoemaker by trade and followed that occupation for a long period of years in Oxford. Mr. Thurber was a remarkable man physically and retained his faculties until the last. His death occurred May 28, 1884. He married first Mary Desmond of Delhi, who died in December, 1838, in Oxford. His second wife died November 6, 1893. Children by first wife: ANNE, married Aaron B. Abbott; JOHN, married Jane Smith; MARY T., married, May 7, 1855, James Stowell; ABNER, married Dorcas Christman; ADELIA, married William T. Mandeville.

WILLIAM McCALPIN, an early resident of Oxford, was Associate Judge of the old Court of Common Pleas. He was also a member of the first jury ever summoned in Chenango county. The court was held in Oxford in July, 1798.

In the capacious urn of death, every name is shaken.
—HORACE.

Davidson Family.

George A. and Jane (Tier) Davidson came from New York City at an early day and located in Smithville. After remaining there a few years Mr. Davidson purchased a farm in this town on the east side of the river at South Oxford, which is still known as the Davidson farm. They were the parents of twelve children, eight of whom died in infancy. Those who grew to maturity were:

GEORGE, who married Susan Jacobs; ANN, married Dr. R. P. Crandall of Greene; JACOB, married (1) Amelia McIntosh, married (2) Nora McKinney; and ROBERT T.

Mrs. Davidson died September 4, 1857. Mr. Davidson married a second wife in Greenwich, Conn., and some years later his death occurred at Vineland, N. J.

Robert Tier Davidson, born May 4, 1834, in Oxford; died April 27, 1874, in Greene; married December 28, 1857, Almira Haynes, daughter of Charles B. and Sarah (Mead) Haynes of Oxford.

Mr. Davidson, at the age of 19 years, bought out the bookstore of William E. Chapman. After conducting the business for a few years he found the returns for the money invested smaller than he had anticipated, and disposed of the stock, and returned to the homstead, buying the property at South Oxford some years later. Here he remained seven years, and then returned to the village. He was appointed canal collecter in 1857, and from time to time held many important village offices, the duties of which were faithfully discharged. At the completion

of the New York, Oswego & Midland railroad, now the Ontario & Western, to Oxford, he was appointed station agent, which position he held a number of years, giving entire satisfaction to the officers of the road and the traveling public in general. He then received the appointment of freight solicitor for the same company, holding the position up to the time of his death. A man of public spirit, he was prominent in promoting any object that would prove a benefit to the town or village. He was held in high esteem throughout the town and county, his ease and courtesy of manner winning for him the honor and esteem of all.

Mr. Davidson's death was particularly sad and deeply felt alike by relatives and friends. He, with his wife, had gone to Greene to transact some business with his sister, the wife of Dr. R. P. Crandall, and was taken ill soon after reaching there. The disease, erysipelas of the head, rapidly developed and death resulted nine days after the attack. Children:

JANE M., married Dr. Benjamin P. Andrews, and resides in Dansville, N. Y.

CHARLES H., married Annie Trevvett and resides at Utica, N. Y.

WILLIAM HOLLENBECK, a German, came from the Hudson river country at an early day. He was called "Uncle Bill" by the neighbors, and was an industrious farmer. His children were: Stina, Jane, John, Mary Ann, Fitche, Louisa, Derrick, Malinda, Rachel, Silas, and Susan.

Hard thinking opens naturally into strong doing.
—F. G. Peabody.

James A. Glover.

James Aaron Glover, born April 24, 1793, in Plainfield, Conn., came to Oxford in 1802. He was one of six children of Nathan Glover, who settled in Plymouth the same year. Mr. Glover was first employed by Daniel Denison, but later learned the trade of tool maker and blacksmith, in which he became exceptionally skillful. He conducted for many years the stone blacksmith shop which stood on the site of the present residence of Melvin Walker, and it was there that David Maydole, who made a world wide reputation with his hammers, and George R. Lyon, founder of the Greene Iron Works, served their apprenticeship. Mr. Glover was for a long term of years a trustee of Oxford Academy, and prominently identified with the growth of the village. He married June 29, 1817, Ann Bradley of Oxford, a native of Connecticut, and in June, 1867, they celebrated their golden wedding. Mr. Glover died May 23, 1875. Mrs. Glover born July 8, 1792, died December 21, 1871. Children:

Ursula A., born June 16, 1818; died May 24, 1887; married January 8, 1840, William Van Wagenen of Oxford.

Ann Vernette, born January 31, 1820; died March 3, 1892; married Nov. 22, 1853, William D. Knap of New Berlin.

James W.

Mary E., born June 5, 1824; died June, 1887; unmarried.

Elizabeth W., born September 11, 1827; died November 30, 1902, in Binghamton; married August 15, 1850, John Ray Clarke of Oxford.

James W. Glover, born August 28, 1822, in Oxford, was educated at Oxford Academy and read law with Henry R. Mygatt. He was admitted to the bar in 1843, and practiced for over fifty years in his native place, with the exception of a few years spent in Auburn. He represented Oxford as Supervisor, and held the office of postmaster for several years. Mr. Glover married May 19, 1852, Sarah A. Perkins, who died November 14, 1892, aged 68. Mr. Glover, who had been in failing health for a number of years, died November 22, 1896. Children:

Erastus P., born February 22, 1854; died in infancy.

John R., married May 19, 1881, Lillian Henstock of Montrose, Pa.

NATHANIEL KELLOGG, a soldier and pensioner of the war of the Revolution, lived on a farm which was partly in the towns of Greene and Oxford. It was said his house of two rooms stood on the town line, one room in each town, and that he lived in the Oxford part. His farm was on the west side of the Chenango river, and in 1836 he sold it to Abram TenBroeck, and it eventually became a part of the estate of the late Wheaton Loomis, above Brisbin. Mr. Kellogg was born at Hadley, Mass., in 1758; enlisted July 1780 in Captain Alvord's company in Colonel Murry's regiment. He died October 26, 1846, in Jasper, Steuben county.

The rising . . . of waters dark and deep.
—MILTON.

Flood of 1865.

The accumulated snow and ice of the winter of 1864-65, found vent in a most extensive and damaging flood. The warm weather of Tuesday, March 14, culminating on Thursday in a warm south wind, had raised the river to an alarming pitch before night. A little past midnight a slaughter house adjoining the Fort Hill mills, broke loose with a crash and floated off. The flood reached its height about daybreak Friday, and the morning light disclosed a scene of unequaled magnificence to one who could view it indifferently, and to the sufferers by flood one of anxiety and painful interest. From the present residence of Peter J. Jacobs across to the office of the late Wm. H. Hyde, Esq., and thence in a widening current through the grounds of St. Paul's church, rising within a few inches of the floor, across Merchants, Mechanic, and Greene streets, the water flowed onward to the main channel of the river. Within that circuit first floors were in numerous instances abandoned, the inmates betook themselves to chambers or the homes of their more fortunate neighbors, and cattle, horses, and pigs were removed to more safe quarters, while feathered bipeds held to their roost in sullen silence. Fences, firewood, hay, and the thousand and one necessary and carefully stored luxuries of careful housewives floated about in miscellaneous and strange admixture. Across the street leading direct from Fort Hill to St. Paul's church, the current was very

rapid, rendering boating impracticable, lifting heavy flagging stones from their beds, and forcing dirt, rubbish and smaller stones in scattered heaps upon the opposite premises. The road was washed clear of dirt leaving its bed of stone uncovered, walks undermined, and houses in some instances left bare to their foundation stones. On Merchants street, from the corner below the Methodist church, to its termination near the Methodist parsonage, a ferry was in active use in charge of Charles Fraser, who vigorously and skillfully plied the oars, bringing and carrying the inhabitants of the flooded district, and boats were also constantly passing from each of said corners through the streets leading to them. On the west side of the river the damage was not as great, cellars in the business parts were early found to be unsafe, and valuable property generally removed. The river and canal above and below the residence of the late R. E. Spence joined currents, and also below Navy Island, and for once the derisive epithet "raging" applied to the State ditch, became a visible reality. On Albany street at the premises of the late David Bartle, the stream forced its way across the road, went circling in rear of Washington Park to the main channel, filling cellars, making barns untenantable, and compelling the removal of their occupants. The freshet made a sorry looking wreck of the canal, filling in and tearing out, throwing down docks and causing numerous breaks on this level. The feeder dam at South Oxford was carried away.

Early Friday evening, March 17, Jacob Rheinwald, James McEneny, John S. White, Patrick Keyes and Charles Brabazon, started from the Tuttle block in a small boat for a pleasure trip over the flood to the east side of the river. They had reached the main channel a few rods above the river bridge, when the boat became un-

manageable, resisting all efforts at control, and shot suddenly down the rushing waters under the bridge, when White managed to grab the bridge and save himself; Keyes held fast under the bridge and was drawn out through an opening made by the lifting of a plank. McEneny and Rheinwald, by lying flat, floated under, but Brabazon was precipitated into the rapids, passed over the dam in the seething, raging current, quickly followed by his comrades in the boat. By the vigorous efforts of those two and his own dexterous and cool management, he was rescued and drawn into the boat some distance down stream, although much exhausted and soaked by the icy water. It was a marvelous escape from a fearful adventure.

WILLIAM BEARDSLEY was born in Shaftsbury, Vt., May 13, 1793. He went as a soldier from Vermont in the war of 1812, first by draft, afterwards by enlistment, and remained until the close of the war. He was in the naval engagement on Lake Champlain, between Commodore McDonough and Commodore Downie, and after the surrender went on board the vessel on which Commodore Downie was killed, saw the rigging all cut in pieces, and all the ghastly and harrowing sights consequent upon such combats. At the age of 23 he married Anna Maria Catlin, a native of Canada. They came immediately to Oxford, where they resided for many years. They were the parents of twelve children. Mr. Beardsley died January 20, 1878, in Preston, aged 84.

ONE OF THE PHYSICIANS of the early days of Oxford was Dr. Mead, of whom the youngsters used to sing his professional services in the following lines:

"Dr. Mead, he goes full speed,
And rides on a gallop;
He visits all, both great and small,
And fills them up with jalap."

Men drop so fast 'ere life's mid-stage we tread,
Few know so many friends alive, as dead.

—YOUNG.

Westover Family.

Elisha Westover came about 1835 from Massachusetts and settled on a fifty acre farm east of the Leonard Richmond farm and near the Alvin Ingraham four corners, but soon transferred or sold the same to his son Calvin Westover. He then moved into Smithville where he resided for a time, thence into the town of Dryden, N. Y., upon a farm and lumber tract, where he died January 25, 1852, aged 75.

Calvin Westover, son of Elisha, born in 1806 at New Milford, Conn., came to Oxford between the years 1830 and 1835; died September 7, 1882, in Oxford; married (1) ——— Hadsell; married (2) Urania Howland, born in 1810; died August 6, 1879. Children:

EMELINE, married Orlando Beardsley.

ORLIN J., married Mary Britton.

PHOEBE, unmarried, lives in California.

ELMER, died April 11, 1851, aged 16.

BURTON, married October 28, 1862, Amelia Weeks of Oxford, resides in California.

CLARISSA E., died April 27, 1859, aged 15 years.

DIMICE, died December 20, 1860, aged 14.

Calvin Westover, after a few years, bought the Hiram Snow farm, now occupied by Francis Hill, on the four corners mentioned above, where he resided until about 1849, when he purchased the Nicholas Rogers farm, now

occupied by Henry H. Hill, where he resided until his death. He was for several years associated with his brother Ranslow in the oyster business. Afterwards he dealt in live stock, shipping to Binghamton by the Chenango canal.

Orlin J. Westover, son of Calvin, born March 7, 1832, in Oxford; died September 11, 1865, in Andersonville prison, having been taken prisoner at Guntown, Tenn., June 11, 1865, while in the U. S. service during the Civil War. Mr. Westover went to Minnesota in 1853, and married in 1856 Mary M. Britton of Mankato, Minn., born March 17, 1835, died April 24, 1863, in Mankato. He enlisted August 15, 1862, under Capt. Dane in Co. E, 9th Minnesota Volunteers, and was stationed at Fort Ridgeley, on the Minnesota river, where he was engaged in fighting Indians at the outbreak of the Sioux tribe led by Chief Little Crow. He witnessed much hardship and suffering by the settlers, one instance in particular he related. While with a company, they came upon an emigrant party of two men, two women, and two small children. The men were dead, scalped, their hearts cut out and hung on the wagon stakes; one woman was dead, and the other, an old lady, was shot in the back by an arrow, which nearly passed through her body. The children were unharmed. The old lady had been left for dead, but she regained consciousness and succeeded in extracting the shaft of the arrow, but the flint point remained in her body. She had taken the children and managed to crawl to the shade of a tree some distance from the wagon, where she was found by the cavalrymen unconscious, but death ended her suffering soon after. Mr. Westover's father-in-law, Mr. Britton, took two of his children and his grandsons, Maurice and Calvin Westover, to Fort Ridgeley, where they remained two months for

protection from the Indians. He left his two eldest sons to take the women to the fort, where they arrived safely in a day or two. Soon after there was a severe Indian fight in that vicinity and thirty-eight of the tribe were captured, taken to Mankato, and executed in public on December 26, 1862. The refugees at the fort witnessed the execution, which ended the Indian outbreak.

Children of Orlin J. and Mary (Britton) Westover:

MAURICE N., married Clarissa Bradley, resides in Mesa Grande, Cal.

CALVIN E., married Lina Benjamin of Preston, and resides at Herkimer, N. Y.

A daughter died in infancy.

Ozias Westover, son of Elisha, born in Sheffield, Mass.; died September 27, 1860, in Barker, N. Y.; came to Oxford in 1829; married June 18, 1829, Eliza Hadsell of New Marlboro, Mass., born May 11, 1810, died October 9, 1886, in Barker, N. Y. Mr. Westover settled on the farm in the west part of the town, known as the Beardsley farm. After a few years he moved to Barker, Broome county.

Children:

POLLY A., married Abel W. Beach; died April 6, 1885.

JANE P., married Myron S. Root; died August 31, 1887.

DORUS, married Fannie Gaylord, and resides in Barker.

Ranslow Westover, son of Elisha, born April 8, 1809, in Sheffield, Mass.; died December 15, 1858, in Oxford; married December 31, 1835, Clarissa A. Tift of New Berlin, born April 10, 1816, in New Berlin, N. Y., died April 5, 1888, in Lanesboro, Pa.

Soon after their marriage Mr. Westover purchased a pair of strong horses and a heavy lumber wagon, upon which he placed a canvas top. In this vehicle he and his bride took their wedding trip, driving to Plainfield, Ill.

They carried with them cooking utensils and bedding, and cooked their meals whenever opportunity offered, lodging in their wagon wherever night overtook them. At Plainfield he built the first frame house erected in that town. After remaining there five years, during which time Mr. Westover suffered more or less from fever and ague, they returned to Oxford, coming from Utica on the Chenango canal, in the fall of the year that waterway was opened. He purchased the farm in "Dodge Hollow," now owned by William Wells, and later came into the village and purchased the Burghardt farm, at the lower end of Clinton street, now owned by F. P. Newkirk. He built the house now owned by Frederick Dibble, then belonging to the farm, and the two large red barns. Here he remained until his death. In 1840 Mr. Westover in partnership with his brother Calvin entered into the oyster trade. They were the first to bring oysters into this section of the State, which were brought to Oxford from Catskill by teamsters, and then distributed throughout the country by their regular routes, north, east, south, and west. Strange as it may seem, Binghamton, Elmira, and Corning were among the places which received their first oysters from the Westovers. Their trade covered a large section and proved very remunerative. Oysters were then put up in pint and quart kegs, later in square tin cans.

The children of Ranslow were:

Osmer M., born October 2, 1838, in Plainfield, Ill.; married January 21, 1863, Sarah Eliza Chapman, daughter of William E. Chapman of Oxford, born March 6, 1842, died May 6, 1902. Children: Anna B., married Jay W. Hopkins; Herbert G., married Alice Benjamin; Howard C., and Dr. Robert R.

Sylvania Arline, born October 5, 1840, in Oxford;

married Thomas E. Chapman; died January 13, 1885, in Marathon, N Y.

Mary Annette, born June 14, 1844, in Oxford; married Theodore F. McNeil. Resides in Binghamton.

Alice U., born February 8, 1849, in Oxford; died July 5, 1895, in Elmira; married J. W. Hamilton of Oxford.

Earle H., born February 22, 1853; died April 24, 1858.

William G., born October 5, 1855, in Oxford; married May 20, 1880, Lottie E. Waite of Muncie, Ind.; resides in Philadelphia.

Ranslow, born August 9, 1858; died April 12, 1866.

Orlin Westover, son of Elisha, born November 27, 1810, in Sheffield, Mass.; died May 27, 1852, in Oxford; married April 30, 1835, Betsey Howland, born July 5, 1812, in New Milford, Conn., died February 11, 1897, in Dryden, N. Y. Mr. Westover came to Oxford about 1834 and bought of Jeremiah York the farm now owned and occupied by his son, Miles L. His death occurred from pneumonia after a short illness and while in the full prime of manhood. He possessed those Christian attributes which stamped character on the worth of true citizenship and marked the career of a man passing through life with the full assurance of receiving the reward of "Well done, good and faithful servant." He was a just man, living in peace and with enmity for none.

Children:

Adah M., died Oct. 2, 1854, aged 18 years.

Miles R., born in 1839; married Mary P. Root of Tioga, Pa. Children: Florence M., died December 6, 1886, in early womanhood, leaving a memory green in the friendship and love of a host of sincere friends. Orlin E., married Nettie M. Burdick of Norwich; Albert W., married Annie B. Cook of East Norwich; Addie E., mar-

ried Ira D. McNitt, and resides in Kansas; Minnie B., married Thomas M. Dunning of Oxford.

Roxcie M., died December 31, 1905; married Dr. Robert E. Miller of Oxford.

Philander Chase, died January 7, 1906, in his 62d year, survived by a son.

OLD LETTERS are always interesting. Here are two, the first one was written by a student at Oxford Academy the first year of its existence. The writer was a son of Gen. Jacob Morris of an old Colonial family that settled at Morris, N. Y. The second letter was written by the founder of the town of Oxford:

Oxford, 14 Sept., 1794.

Dear Pappa:

I received yours of the 14 this morning. Richard and myself are in good Health at present and will be over on Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Tracy if we are all well at that time. I got our Clothes and I find a coat of Richard's missing which I am in hopes to get on the road.

I remain your affectionate son, LEWIS LEE MORRIS.

Oxford, May 28th, 1799.

Dear Sir:

The Adgt. Gen'l will be at Oxford on Saturday, 8th of June, at which time I hope to be honoured with your Company. On Friday morning the Reverend Mr. Camp will address himself to the Militia, in the afternoon you and the Gen'l can go to the Butternuts, and on Monday morning be at Otego. Pleas to give Majr Edwards an invitation and be so kind as to inform me by Next Post. I am with esteem your Humble servt,

BENJ HOVEY.

Gen'l Morris.

In an age
When men were men, and not ashamed of heaven.
—YOUNG.

Cyrus A. Bacon.

Cyrus A. Bacon came to Oxford early in boyhood and began his mercantile career as clerk for Ira Willcox in the brick store on Fort Hill. He married Mary A. McCalpin, daughter of Thomas McCalpin of Oxford, who died December 25, 1857, aged 65 years. He took his young wife to his mother's home in Preston, a few miles from the village of Oxford, where she remained several weeks, when he rented the Stephen O. Runyan house on the east side of the river. James Clapp also occupied a portion of the building for a law office. In 1825, in connection with Uri Tracy, son of the early settler by that name, Mr. Bacon commenced a mercantile business which was continued till the death of Mr. Tracy in 1856. His active business career lasted for a period of fifty-four years, or up to the time of his death, which occurred January 12, 1879, at the age of 89 years. Mr. Bacon was for over forty years a trustee of Oxford Academy. He also held the town offices of supervisor and clerk, the latter for a long term of years. He was the fifth in succession of postmasters, holding the office from 1841 to 1849, and from 1853 to 1861.

During the night of November 3, 1847, the residence of Mr. Bacon, now the Baptist parsonage, was entered, and a cash box taken from his sleeping room, containing nearly $600 in cash and a larger amount in note. He was aroused by a noise made by the burglar and discovering his loss

rushed to the door, but only in time to hear the retreating footsteps of the midnight visitors, one of whom left his boots behind. In the morning the cash box was found half a mile from the village rifled of the money and the best part of the papers. One person was arrested on suspicion, examined and discharged. In May, 1851, several more of Mr. Bacon's papers were discovered under a barn five miles north of the village. They were in a leather case, which, with its contents were much decayed, though many were legible.

Mr. Bacon married October 2, 1864, for his second wife, Mrs. Catherine (Cook) Kinyon of Oxford, who died November 14, 1892, aged 87 years. Children by first wife:

MARGARET R., died January 7, 1843, aged 22 years.

JANE M., died August 12, 1895, in Syracuse, aged 72 years; married Geo. W. Gray.

JAMES H., died February 25, 1847, aged 22 years.

ELIZABETH, H., died August 19, 1862, aged 34 years.

RANDALL MAIN, for many years a well known citizen of Oxford previous to 1846, in which year he moved to New York City, died suddenly in North Stonington, Ct., March 12, 1852, aged 59 years. He was prominently identified with the Baptist Church in this village. His wife was Fanny York, sister of Dr. Edward York, Jeremiah York, and Ruth York. She died August 17, 1878, in North Stonington, Ct., aged 82 years. Among their children were Dwight and Randall W.

On thy calm joys with what delight I dream,
Thou dear green valley of my native stream!
Fancy o'er thee still waves th' enchanting wand.
—BLOOMFIELD.

Joseph Gifford.

Joseph Gifford came to Oxford on horseback about the year 1802, and purchased of Ezekiel Olds the farm, on which he lived and died, now owned by his grandson, John H. Gifford, on the east side of the river two miles below the village. Mr. Gifford was born in Connecticut, October 24, 1775; married in February, 1804, Priscilla Root, who died April 4, 1807, leaving two daughters, Jerusha and Priscilla, who died in infancy. His second wife was the widow Betsey Turner, whom he married October 24, 1807. Her death occurred May 22, 1860. Mr. Gifford died February 15, 1865. Children:

JULIAN, born August 25, 1808; died April 13, 1849; married Ira R. Noble.

MARYAN, twin to Julian, died December 9, 1898; married John Hicks of Norwich.

PRISCILLA, born March 4, 1810; died February 7, 1844; married John Y. Washburn.

JOSEPH, born November 15, 1812; died in 1885; married Eliza Adams.

JESSE H., born August 16, 1816; died October 31, 1886; married Elizabeth C. Hopkins, died January 1, 1882.

HIEL T., born May 29, 1819; died October 25, 1850.

JAMES M., born February 20, 1823; married Marcia C. Rhodes, both now living in town.

An old farm-house with meadows wide,
And sweet with clover on each side;
A bright-eyed boy, who looks from out
The door with woodbine wreathed about.
—ANONYMOUS.

John Webb.

John Webb, born December 2, 1756, in Egremont, Mass.; died March 27, 1832, in Oxford. His wife was born December 22, 1777, and died in middle age.

At a very early day, Mr. Webb, accompanied by his wife, came to the State of New York and located on Panther Hill in the town of Oxford. The journey was long and tedious as they came overland by means of an oxteam and encountered many hardships. The country was wild and unbroken, and the hand of civilization had as yet made but few changes. They often went to bed hungry, subsisting mainly on wild game and fish, in which the forests and streams abounded. One by one these old pioneers have passed away, and they live only in the memory of their descendants; but the work of their hands will continue as a monument to their deeds, and as a reminder of the trials and struggles through which they passed in developing the town.

Children:

WILLIAM.

DANIEL, died in 1812 in Canada, unmarried.

LYMAN, found dead in road near schoolhouse; unmarried.

SALLY, married ——— Wall; died in Minnesota.

JOHN.

LORRY, married Erastus Ingraham; died in McDonough.

JOEL, married Abigail Loomis.

MARGARET, married Leonard Ingraham; died in Oxford.

Joel Webb, son of John Webb, born April 11, 1804, in Oxford; died January 5, 1888; married February 6, 1828, Abigail Loomis of Smithville, born September 9, 1811, died May 8, 1888.

Mr. Webb was born, lived and died on the farm settled by his father on Panther Hill, and reared a family of nine children. Mrs. Webb was a daughter of Edward Loomis of Smithville, one of the first settlers in all that region, which was then an unbroken wilderness, inhabited by deer, bears, wolves, and other wild beasts. The Webb homestead had

"—a roof with a slope down behind,
Like a sunbonnet blown partly off by the wind."

Mr. Webb was honest and faithful in the discharge of his duties, respected by all and beloved by his kindred.

Children:

Benaiah, married Christina M. Smith; resides in Greene.

Harriet, resides in Utica, and for over fifty years was a successful teacher in public schools.

Charlotte, married Charles A. McFarland of Oxford; died October 2, 1901.

Betsey M., married Rev. Daniel Ballou; resides in Utica.

George M., married Harriet Ketchum; resides in Oxford.

Whitman J., married Augusta Lansing.

Joel Julian, died August 31, 1844.

Marion L., married Clark L. McNeil; resides in Oxford.

Alvin G., married Josephine Miller; resides in Oxford.

Edward L., married Ida C. Towslee; resides in Higganum, Conn.

Fred E., died October 4, 1851.

The manner of saying or doing a thing goes a great way in the value of the thing itself.

—SENECA.

Epaphras Miller.

Epaphras Miller, born June 2, 1778, in Glastonbury, Conn., died July 5, 1860, in Oxford; married July 14, 1810, at Wilkesbarre, Pa., Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Samuel Baldwin, born March 26, 1787, in West Stockbridge, Mass., died July 14, 1853, in Oxford.

Mr. Miller was among Oxford's earliest settlers, coming in 1800 and engaging in mercantile business, which he followed for a period of about fifty years. He was identified with many plans for the growth and prosperity of the youthful village, and, among the active men of that day, none were more zealous to advance the standard of education, to open public thoroughfares, and add to the beauty of the village.

From 1807 Mr. Miller was associated with Samuel Farnham, Sr., for two years; in 1818 he was a partner of John F. Hill for two years in this village, and then for the two succeeding years the same firm conducted a store in McDonough. In the year 1831 he formed a partnership with Thomas G. Newkirk, which terminated in 1836. In 1834 he received his son, Henry L. Miller, as his partner, who retired in 1841 to join William Mygatt in his store on Washington Park, in part the present residence of Mrs. D. M. Lee. Epaphras Miller retired from business in 1843, and died in 1860 in the same house in which he and his wife began housekeeping in 1810. He was one ever ready to assist those around him struggling with pecuniary

difficulties, an obliging and sympathizing neighbor, a kind and ever affectionate parent, but unyielding in purpose and opinions he deemed right. Children:

Robert, born September 23, 1812; died June 21, 1814.

Benjamin, born November 15, 1813; died November 16, 1813.

Henry L., born May 15, 1815.

Elizabeth, born Dec. 13, 1818; died January 7, 1894, in Buffalo; married July 24, 1838, John Lathrop of West Springfield, Mass., died May 16, 1870, in Buffalo. Children: Henry M., born July —, 1839, died December 7, 1868, in New York from a street car accident; Mary E., born October 8, 1845.

Anna M., born January 21, 1821; married June 5, 1844, Benjamin Cannon of Cannonsville, N. Y.

Benjamin S., born July 14, 1827; died August ,2 1859, unmarried. Graduated at Yale in 1847, and devoted several years to teaching in this State and in the South. Later was employed in the survey of a canal in North Carolina.

The Oxford *Gazette* of June 28, 1814, in mentioning the death of Mr. Miller's first born, says: "In this village on Tuesday, the 21st, a son of Epaphras Miller, æt. 1 year and 9 months.—The Physician by mistake dealt out Arsenac instead of Calomel: the child took it and in 50 hours expired."

Henry L. Miller, son of Epaphras and Elizabeth (Baldwin) Miller, born May 15, 1815, in Oxford; died March 10, 1886, in Oxford; married October 15, 1839, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of William and Caroline (Northrup) Mygatt, born November 7, 1817, in New Milford, died February 5, 1890, in Oxford.

Mr. Miller received his education at Oxford Academy and there gave evidence of the intellectual and moral traits of character which made his after life so successful. After completing his academic course in 1834, at the age of 19, he assisted in his father's store, the same now occupied by William M. Miller on LaFayette Square. In 1835 he entered the dry goods house of P. Freeman & Co., Pearl street, New York, to acquire a thorough acquaintance with the business, returning to Oxford in 1838, and entering into copartnership with his father. In 1841 he entered into partnership in the leather business with William Mygatt, putting into the store a large stock of general merchandise, and, upon the retirement of the latter in 1851, continued the business alone for two years. In April, 1853, Mr. Miller received Gerrit H. Perkins as a partner, and later George C. Rector, now of Hastings, Neb., also became a partner. In 1868, upon the retirement of the latter, the name of William M. Miller was added, making the firm name Miller, Perkins & Co. The mercantile career of the senior member of the firm extended over a period of more than half a century. During the latter part of this time his extensive private interests, and the management of large estates of others intrusted to his care occupied his mind and time to the serious impairment of his health. A condition of nervous dyspepsia and of enfeebled memory followed, which forced him to abandon all business cares, and from that time he spent the remainder of his days in the enjoyment of his beautiful, quiet home, gratefully receiving the ministrations of his devoted wife, and the society of family and friends.

Few men engaged in business so engrossing and extensive as was Mr. Miller's have given so largely of their time and means for the public good. In the midst of his most active mercantile life he ever manifested a deep in-

terest in the prosperity of the village, and was a zealous supporter of the cause of education and religion. From 1862 to 1866 he was president of the village, and untiringly exerted himself to promote its welfare. For many years he held a trusteeship of the Oxford Academy, and was one of its most earnest and faithful supporters, sparing neither time nor money to elevate its standard of usefulness and influence. He held the position of cashier in the First National Bank of Oxford from 1865 for two years, and was vice president of that institution for twelve years, from 1867 to 1879, when he declined a re-election. Amid all these cares he found time for reading, keeping himself informed in all the current events of the day. He entered the membership of the Congregational church in the year 1849, and from that time until the end of his life he was one of its ablest and heartiest supporters.

Mrs. Miller received her education at Oxford Academy, and, on the 3d of March, 1839, she united with the Congregational church, continuing until her death one of its most devout and loyal members. Her life was one long epistle of benevolence, hospitality, Christian charity, and love. The beautiful chapel contiguous to the Congregational church, was built by her as a memorial of her husband, and given to the society, a free-will offering.

Children:

William M.

John E.

Henry N., born May 17, 1845; died suddenly February 10, 1864.

Benjamin S., born June 1, 1851; married November 23, 1881, Josephine A., daughter of John B. Bowen of Binghamton.

William M. Miller, son of Henry L. and Elizabeth (My-

gatt) Miller, born September 28, 1840, in Oxford; married July 17, 1879, Emma E., daughter of B. M. Pearne of Oxford.

For nearly forty-five years Mr. Miller has been in the general merchandise trade in Oxford, reckoning the period of his clerkship. His father and his grandfather carried on the same business years before him; the original store of Epaphras Miller, who founded the business in 1800, stood where the grandson now does business. In the spring of 1868 Mr. Miller became a partner with his father, Henry L. Miller, and Gerrit H. Perkins, and the firm was known as Miller, Perkins & Co. At one time the patrons of this firm were scattered over an extent of country within the radius of a day's drive. Frequently large bills of goods were carted from this store over into Delaware county.

The death of the senior partner, in 1886, led to no immediate change, the business being conducted under the same firm name until the retirement of Mr. Perkins in 1890, since which time Mr. Miller has conducted the business alone. Mr. Miller is a director in the First National Bank of Oxford, the owner of the Citizens Opera House, and a large property in village and farm real estate. Mr. Miller has been one of the active members of the fire department, first connected with the old Lady Washington Company, and afterwards with the Sappho Hose Company.

Children:

Henry P., born September 27, 1880; graduated at Rutgers; died May 17, 1904, in Minneapolis, Minn.

Elizabeth M.

Benjamin M.

John E. Miller, son of Henry L. and Elizabeth (Mygatt) Miller, born August 26, 1842; graduated with the vale-

dictory at Oxford Academy, and with honors at Yale, where he obtained the degree of A. B., and later A. M. Upon leaving school he spent two years as clerk in his father's store and three years in banking, being the first teller of the First National Bank of Oxford, where he was employed for about two years, and subsequently occupying the same position for more than a year in the State National Bank of Minneapolis. While there he declined a flattering proposal to accept the cashiership and a place in the directory of a bank which was being organized in Des Moines, Iowa. His desire was to pursue an active out-door business, this being the special reason why, after registering at Albany as student in law, he decided not to follow the profession. In June, 1872, Mr. Miller entered into copartnership with William C. Beardsley in quarrying and shipping blue stone at South Oxford, which partnership continued only a year and a half, Mr. Beardsley retiring from the firm. Mr. Miller conducted the business alone up to the fall of 1880. In January, 1881, New York parties took a half interest in the business, and the firm conprised W. H. Hurst, James J. Treanor, Frank P. Treanor, superintendent, and John E. Miller, under the name of John E. Miller & Co. This firm made large contracts and furnished quantities of stone in New York City and vicinity. Following the expiration of this contract Mr. Miller disposed of the stone interest, reserving a valuable quarry in Greene, also one in McDonough. Since then he has been greatly interested in fine horses and in the pursuits of an agricultural nature. He has been a village father for a term of five years.

The beginnings of all things are small
—Cicero.

George C. Rector.

George C. Rector came to Oxford about the year 1845 from Esperance, N. Y., where he was born March 26, 1831. After a few years engaged in clerking, he became the junior member of the firm of Miller, Perkins & Rector, which did a large mercantile business on Fort Hill during the days when the Chenango canal was in its prosperity. Later Mr. Rector engaged in the hardware business which he conducted for a number of years previous to his removal to the West. He is now a resident of Hastings, Neb. He married (1) April 20, 1856, Sarah Roome, born May 1, 1836, in New York City, died May 5, 1874, at Blue Earth City, Minn.; married (2) July 20, 1875, Angelina Roome, born March 7, 1840, in New York City, died March 25, 1902, in Hasting, Neb. Children by first wife:

Henry C., born in Oxford; died June 14, 1899, in Moscow, Russia, aged 44 years. In 1877 he went to Europe in the employment of the International Bell Telephone Co., and worked in Germany, Switzerland, France, and Russia.

Hattie, born February 26, 1859; died March —, 1862.
Lizzie, born November 11, 1862, in Oxford.
George Herbert, born March 10, 1864, in Oxford.
Jennie, born April 10, 1866, in Oxford.
Orlando A., born November 10, 1872, in Minnesota.

The flood may pour from morn till night
Nor wash the pretty Indian white.—HAFIZ.

Indian Stories.

After their land was sold the dusky natives, mostly Oneidas, still held possession of their hunting grounds and sought game and fish in forest and stream. They lived peacefully among the whites. The early history of the Chenango Valley furnished a variety of Indian stories, some of a romantic and others of a tragic character. One is as follows:

One summer's evening General Hovey, with a party of surveyors, among whom was Captain Derrick Race, had finished their day's work of laying out village lots, and were approaching their cabin, when an unknown Indian warrior of powerful build appeared and inquired if a strange Indian had passed that way. Colonel Race replied:

"Yes, about an hour ago, and you will find him a mile north, where he has camped for the night."

The warrior resumed his journey, quickly and silently passing from sight in the direction designated. Reaching the one whom he sought, and who, seeing escape was impossible, rose from a sitting posture, placed his hands at his side and exclaimed: "Ugh! me dead Ingun!" The other without a word raised his tomahawk and buried it three times in his skull, wiped it on his sleeve and returned to the cabin of the surveyors. In the morning he disappeared as silently as he came, having fulfilled his mission to avenge the murder of his sister, which had

occurred in a southern State. He had been on the track of his victim for several weeks to accomplish this purpose.

Upon another occasion five hundred Indians, dressed and painted in holiday attire, passed down the river in bark canoes. They were on their way to attend a grand council of the several nations at Tioga Point, now Owego. Their unexpected advent caused great alarm before the object of their visit was made known.

A few Indians still lingered for many years about the town, who were accustomed to camp along the streams, hunt, fish, make baskets, and brooms. They were generally quiet and peaceable, but the whites would sometimes abuse them. Occasionally an Indian would tell over his cups of the traditional glory of his ancestors, when the old fort was theirs. They were principally Oneidas, among them was Antone, better known as "Old Abe," who, notwithstanding his subsequent perfidy, often sided with the whites in cases of disagreement.

Daniel P. Fitch, of whom mention is made elsewhere, related the following to the writer in regard to Antone.

In the years 1809-10 I lived with my uncle, Daniel Perry, or Price as the Dutch would have it, in South Oxford, on the east side of the river. He had a good farm, well improved for that day, good buildings, with an orchard of apple trees in full bearing, far in advance of the early settlers in that section. Abe Antone was in the habit of going there from Madison county, to spend the hunting season, which began about the first of October and held until New Year's Day. I well remember when they came in 1809. The squaws and children were in a two-horse wagon, while the chief and his braves walked, carrying their muskets and wearing belts in which were their hatchets and hunting knives. My uncle and aunt welcomed them cordially; the squaws and children were

given the spacious kitchen to use until their cabins were repaired, which stood on the banks of a creek that ran through the farm in a dense growth of small hemlocks and pines. The third day after their arrival the hunt began, which was conducted by the chief himself. Early in the morning Antone, with their best marksmen, took their stand on what was called runways, while the others circled around in the woods, driving the game to the marksmen, who shot it. At the close of the day's hunt the chief would call at the farm house and tell what luck they had. At one time he said: "Me shoot four deer to-day"; at another time, "Me shoot seven buck to-day." My uncle told him that was a good day's work. He then got apples and cider, of which Antone was very fond, and in return received venison and other presents. Game was very plenty, deer, bear, wolves, all the various fur animals, such as foxes, otter, mink, and muskrat.

At this time Antone's family consisted of ten children, eight sons and two daughters. The sons were able to join in the chase with their father. The girls being the youngest, about seven or eight years of age, were my playmates during the two hunting seasons they passed in South Oxford. When they were dressed in their neat Indian blankets, with wampum belts around their waists, bead work on their wrists, and their coal black hair combed neatly over their necks and shoulders, they were really pretty. And their bright, shining eyes, musical laugh and winning ways added much to their charms in my youthful eyes. Game becoming scarce and the country settling up so rapidly, Antone went to Delaware county, then a wilderness, to pursue his hunting. This was the last I ever saw of him or his family, but I became aware of some of the tragic events that happened to them in later years.

In time the young Indian girls grew to womanhood, were admired by the young braves of their tribe, and also by the young men among the pale faces. Mary, one of the girls, received the addresses of an Oneida brave, to whom she was tenderly attached and expected to marry, but was doomed to disappointment, for he proved false. He married another dusky maiden of the forest, and Mary mourned over her disappointment until she could bear it no longer. She grew moody and revengeful, and one night arming herself with her father's hunting knife went to their wigwam and, finding them asleep, plunged the knife into the breast of her rival. She fled, but was soon arrested for the crime and placed in jail by the authorities of Madison county. To this Antone objected, telling the white men that it was none of their business, and that they could settle it their own way, but the authorities paid no attention to the old chief's wishes. Mary was brought to trial, proved guilty and sentenced to be hung. Antone made strong efforts to save his daughter and told the court that he did not want his child hung like a dog, but if they would shoot her so that she could die an honorable death he would be satisfied, otherwise he would have revenge. She was executed at Peterboro, and I was shown the field years after where the scaffold was erected upon which my youthful playmate met her death.

Antone's grief and sorrow over the death of his child was intense and he laid plans to carry out his threat of revenge. He left his family and disappeared, but suddenly appeared in a field one day where men were hoeing corn. John Jacobs, an Indian, was one of the party and had been the principal witness against Mary and active in her arrest. Antone approached, shook hands with each one until he came to Jacobs, and while apparently grasping his hand in friendship, drew a long knife from his sleeve, at the same

time saying, "How d'ye do, brother?" quickly drove it three times into the body of his victim, who fell at the first blow. Antone gave a terrific whoop and disappeared before the terrified witnesses recovered their presence of mind. It has been said, though I cannot vouch for it, that he also killed the judge and the sheriff who had sentenced and executed his daughter. Great excitement followed, a reward was offered for his body dead or alive, and a thorough search made, but no clue could be found. Finally the reward was increased, and General Ransom Rathbone of Oxford called out the militia and a thorough search was made in the forests of New York and Pennsylvania, but without success, for Antone was securely sheltered in South Oxford by Andrew Achorn until the excitement died away.

Finally two brothers, in whom Antone placed great confidence, followed him to Delaware county, whither he had gone, and after giving him presents and spending some days, finally proposed shooting at a mark, with the object to take their victim while his musket was unloaded. Antone consented and fired, the men rushed upon him, but were beaten off, and the old chief would have then escaped if they had not shot him in the leg. He was taken to Morrisville, placed in jail, where he gave up all hope, and refusing to eat pined away. Judge Williams of Utica presided at the trial. The prisoner pleaded not guilty and objected to a trial, except by his own people; stating that he had paid $270 to the different tribes for a ransom and thought it hard that he should die when he had made his peace with the Indians. He also produced a document written by George Washington, appointing him one of his aids and fast runners to carry messages and orders from one post to another. He plead his services to the country in gaining its independence, his friendship for the whites,

but all to no purpose. The court appointed Judge Platt and General Kirkland his counsel, who rested their defense on this, that the State of New York had no jurisdiction over the Indian tribes within her territory. The court, however, overruled the objection and Antone was sentenced to be hanged on Friday, the 12th of September, 1828. He said he was willing to die, but objected to the mode of execution, preferring to be shot. A great crowd gathered at Morrisville to witness the old chief meet his death, a walking skeleton and nearly one hundred years old.

Antone was accused of other murders, but in a confession he made which was printed in a pamphlet, a copy of which I have read, he denied, but acknowledged killing two persons, an Indian and a white man.

In later years Abraham Tushnook was another noted Indian character in this vicinity. He was also called "Old Abe," and handled the bow and arrow in a skillful manner. At "general training" he earned quite a little money by shooting pennies from a notched stick to the amusement of a crowd. Abe belonged to the Stockbridge tribe, and served under Captain Jacobs in the war of 1812. His attachment for the favorite hunting grounds in the Chenango valley was strong. He died at the County House in Preston October 18, 1870, aged 82.

From Chenango Republican, published at Oxford, Sept. 8, 1826:

☞$300 REWARD.☜

WHEREAS, Several specimens of *anthracite* coal have been discovered, at various points in the town of Oxford, imbedded in those characteristic *strata* of mineral substances, which invariably attend, & attest the presence of coal; the citizens, of Oxford, as an additional stimulus to the exertions of such persons as have evinced a disposition to enter upon the search, offer a reward of Three Hundred Dollars, to be paid to the discoverer or discoverers of an inexhaustible COAL-BED, in this section of country.

Ay me! What perils do environ
The man that meddles with cold iron!
What plaguy mischiefs and mishaps
Do dog him still with after-claps!—BUTLER,

Cork Island Duel.

The only affair of honor that ever occurred in Chenango county took place on the island a half mile above the river bridge in Oxford. It was in the early days of the town that two worthies, Messrs. Sherwood and Starkwether, had a difference, then a quarrel, over some trifling affair, and their friends seeing a chance for considerable sport kept them in a heated condition until it was resolved to exchange shots in vindication of their honor, and the little island was selected for that purpose. Their seconds were chosen, who secretly gave the affair publicity that the friends might be present and enjoy the fun.

On the day appointed the belligerents made their appearance on the spot selected. The seconds had agreed that neither should suffer harm, and loaded the pistols with cork instead of lead, and each inspired his principal with courage by informing him that his antagonist's pistol was loaded with cork, but assuring him that his own contained a ball. Sherwood, who had arrived first on the field, said, as Starkwether approached:

"Starkwether, you know I'm a good shot and sure to kill. If you'll acknowledge you are in the wrong, then this affair is ended, and we'll go home."

"Not by a danged sight, Sherwood," was the bold reply. "I'm here on my honor, and when I return you'll be the one they'll take home to bury!"

"I will, eh!" quickly answered Sherwood with flashing eye. "I know there's going to be a funeral, but it won't be mine, not to-day, nor next week, nor for a month to come. You know I'm in the right, confound it, and I thought I'd give you a chance to live a few years longer. You'd rather die a natural death, hadn't you?"

"Well, I'm going to, you old skunk," said Starkwether, as he stooped to pick a spear of grass. "You can't scare me into showing the white feather. Get up there in line while I let daylight through you."

"I'm an old skunk, am I? gol dern ye! Get your old pepperbox ready; I ain't afraid! I'll show you a trick that's played on folks that never before have been beyond their father's farm."

"You talk as though you had got a brace of printer's devils about your ears. Stop your jibberjabber, the sexton is waiting for his job."

The seconds now concluded that the principals were thoroughly worked up, placed them in position, back to back, with directions to mark off ten paces as one was counted, to turn at two and fire at three. The neighboring trees concealed many interested spectators, whose sides fairly ached with laughter they were compelled to subdue for fear of discovery.

"Now, gentlemen," said one of the seconds, "are you ready? If so, we'll proceed."

The principals bravely and in loud voice acknowledged their readiness to shed each other's blood.

"Then, gentlemen, you thoroughly understand the rules, and I'll now give the signal. Ready! One! Two! Three!"

As the last word was echoing from the neighboring hills the report of the pistols rang out simultaneously. And

as arranged neither contestant was injured, but was hurriedly approached by his second, who told each that they had winged their man, though not mortally wounding him, and that a speedy retirement from the scene and a few days in seclusion would be about the thing to do until the affair blew over.

It was several days before Messrs. Sherwood and Starkweather became fully acquainted with the facts of the affair, and by that time their wrath had cooled, and they again became fast friends. The island has since been known as Cork Island.

DANIEL SILL, son of Rev. Elijah Sill, was born in New Fairfield, Conn., in 1771; married Abigail McKnight, January 25, 1798, and with her came to Oxford. She died in 1806, leaving four children, all of whom were born in Oxford. They were:

ASENATH, who married Samuel Lewis, and died in March, 1850.

ADDISON, married Jemima Cleveland, and moved to Kingsville, Ohio.

DIANA, died in infancy.

SUSAN, married Ami Cleveland, and died May 15, 1859.

Mr. Sill's second wife was Albasinda Barnes, whom he married February 2, 1808. Two children were born to them, who died in infancy. Mr. Sill was a farmer, and after residing here a few years moved away and died February 17, 1826, at Ossian, N. Y.

Years following years steal something every day;
At last they steal us from ourselves away.
—POPE.

Stephen Weeks.

Stephen Weeks and wife came from Long Island at an early day and settled in Bainbridge. Not liking the situation there they went five miles farther and located on "Cider" creek, near Yaleville (Guilford), where he cleared the land sufficiently to put up a log house to shelter himself and wife. They never saw another white woman's face for six months. Mr. Weeks died in 1813, leaving his wife with eight children, the youngest of whom, Stephen, 2d, born March 26, 1813, was but six months old. By the time he was old enough to do anything his brothers had made way with all they could dispose of, and he started out to shift for himself. He finally located in the town of Smithville and hired out to Joseph Corbin, remaining five years, and working for five dollars per month. Eventually he bought back the land piece by piece that his brothers had sold, and when that was accomplished he married, September 13, 1837, Julia A. Williams, daughter of Eber and Martha (Bennett) Williams, pioneers of Oxford. Mr. and Mrs. Weeks remained in Guilford nearly ten years, and then sold the farm and moved to Wisconsin. The climate not agreeing with them, they returned East and to the home of Mrs. Weeks' parents in Oxford, Mr. Weeks buying their farm on the Tyner road. Here they passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. Weeks died October 5,

1874. Mrs. Weeks was born October 25, 1817, in Oxford, and died on the same farm July 4, 1876. Children:

AMELIA F., born in Guilford; married Burton Westover of Oxford. Resides at San Diego, Cal.

GEORGE, born in Guilford; died December 26, 1846, in Wisconsin.

ALBERT, born in Wisconsin, died unmarried June 10, 1864, in Oxford.

E. PERCIVAL WILLCOX, born September 20, 1808, in Durham, Greene county, N. Y.; died January 27, 1869, in Montrose, Pa. Married March 31, 1834, Sarah Jane Spees, born August 10 ,1808; died July 24, 1891, in Montrose, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Willcox came to Oxford soon after their marriage, and resided in one-half of the Ira Willcox homestead, now the Memorial Library building, for twenty-five years. Mr. Willcox, during this time, was engaged in business at the Oxford foundry and also in a hardware store, which at first was located in Fort Hill block, and later moved to the present location of Burchard Bros.' store. Frances Elizabeth, their only child, married Henry C. Tyler and resides at Montrose, Pa. Mr. Tyler died June 10, 1891.

ON the evening of December 25, 1862, Niagara Fire Company gave their third annual festival, the proceeds of which were donated for the comfort of sick and wounded soldiers of the Civil war.

The mould of a man's fortune is in his own hands.
—Bacon.

John Y. Washburn.

John Y. Washburn, son of Luke and Margaret (Noys) Washburn, born May 31, 1810, in Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; died September 5, 1890, in Norwich. Married (1) October 28, 1834, Antoinette Bristol, who died August 24, 1838; married (2) in September, 1839, Prisçilla Gifford, who died February 7, 1844; married (3) September 8, 1844, Sarah A. Spencer, born November 14, 1820, in Coventry; died March 29, 1893, in Towanda, Pa., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Babcock, who was then living there.

Mr. Washburn came from Massachusetts stock, and some of his ancestors took an active part in the Revolutionary war. Members of that family thereafter became prominent in the affairs of Massachusetts, one of them serving as Governor of the State at one time.

Mr. Washburn learned the cabinet making trade and came to Oxford in 1830, where for some years he conducted the cabinet business. At the formation of the Oxford Hoe and Edge Tool Company he became identified with that company as manager of its lumber interest, which at that time was quite extensive. He remained with that company during his active business life at Oxford, having about 1869 acquired the entire ownership of the property of the company. The factory was destroyed by fire in 1871 and was not rebuilt. He served the town of Oxford in various official capacities, and when he came to Oxford he identified himself with the Methodist church of this village, and served as one of the official board of that church for sixty

consecutive years. In his earlier life he was an active member of the fraternal organizations having lodges at Oxford, and was identified with the Oxford National Bank as a stockholder almost from its inception to the time of his death. He was a man of sterling qualities and character, industrious, sober, and faithful in the discharge of every duty and undertaking which he assumed. He died at the home of his son, Wesley, in Norwich, and is buried in his family plot in Riverview cemetery. All his children that obtained school age were educated at Oxford Academy.

Child by first wife:

John B., born November 24, 1837. Assistant surgeon in the United States Navy during the Civil war. Died September 23, 1863, of yellow fever at Pensacola, Florida. Unmarried. Children by second wife:

Joseph G., born July 26, 1841. Served in the Civil war, at first a sergeant, Co. A, 114th Regt. N. Y. Vols. Promoted first sergeant May 17, 1863. Wounded in arm, thigh, and shoulder at Opequan. Mortally wounded at Cedar Creek, and died October 19, 1864, twelve hours after receiving wound. A brave and accomplished soldier. Unmarried.

Wesley, born August 4, 1843; died September 7, 1895, in Norwich. Served during the Civil war in Co. E, 89th Regt. N. Y. Vols. Married Melantha Baker of Norwich, who died February 11, 1905, in Norwich.

Children by third wife:

Antionette, born June 22, 1845; died November 10, 1876; married Andrew S. Seeley. Her husband and one child, Sarah, still survive.

Sarah J., born June 20, 1847; died July 6, 1853.

Margaret F., born April 2, 1849; died August 22, 1849.

Mary Elizabeth, born November 14, 1850; married

Henry E. Babcock of Norwich. Both are now living in New York city with one son, Charles E. Babcock, a civil engineer.

CHARLES, born March 6, 1853; died November 5, 1864.

WILLIAM B., born April 29, 1855; died February 29, 1856.

FRANK, born June 13, 1857; died July 16, 1877. Unmarried.

CYRUS V., born September 27, 1860; married Lizzie E. Bulkley of Oswego, N. Y. Resides and practices law in New York city. One daughter, Irene.

WILLIAM A., born December 5, 1862; died January 19, 1892, at Mansville, N. Y., where he successfully practiced medicine and became a skillful physician. Married Mary B. Carl of Candor, N. Y. Child: John Carl, drowned while skating at Mannsville, January 27, 1906, aged 18.

The most important part of every business is to know what ought to be done.

—COLUMELLA.

Alamanzar Watson.

Alamanzar Watson, born in Palmer, Mass., July 22, 1809, was one of six children, three sons and three daughters. By the death of the father. the mother was left alone to care for the children at an early age, and they did what they could toward supporting the family, from which grew habits of industry and frugality. At the age of eleven, as was then the custom, Mr. Watson served an apprenticeship and learned the saddler's trade, after which he started west to seek a fortune. Empty handed, with only a brave heart and his mother's blessing, he worked his way through

Albany, Schoharie, and Otsego counties to Bainbridge, where, learning that William Mygatt was in need of help in his tannery and leather store, he came to Oxford. Thus in 1830, at the age of 21, he was working on a salary of eight dollars per month, and by his industry and faithfulness soon won the confidence of his employer, who entrusted to him the most important part of the business for a period of more than ten years. Mr. Watson then commenced business for himself in the Fort Hill block, which he continued until 1856, when he engaged in the loaning of money in Illinois, which he made the field of his financial interests for several years. He was trustee of Oxford Academy and was one of its heartiest supporters. The unfortunate and friendless were often remembered and assisted by his aid. The Congregational church received his warmest support, with which society he united by letter in 1835. On September 9, 1845, Mr. Watson was married to Miss Jennette M. Hall of Sullivan, Madison county, then preceptress of Oxford Academy. They immediately commenced housekeeping on Washington avenue, where they resided until their decease. Their own hands planted the trees, graded and beautified the grounds from year to year. Mr. Watson died May 8, 1886, in his 77th year. Mrs. Watson's death occurred June 20, 1889, at the age of 70 years.

In 1848 a son was born to them and christened Charles Alonzo. He was educated at Oxford Academy and Amherst College, at which institution he graduated in 1870. The remaining years of his life were spent in mercantile business in Lockport, N. Y., with the exception of a few months in 1873, when he was abroad with his invalid mother. On March 19, 1879, he was drowned by the accidental upsetting of a boat in the Gulf of Mexico, where he had been spending a few weeks for recreation.

With wisdom fraught,
Not such as books, but such as practice taught.
—WALLER.

George D. Avery.

George D. Avery was born at Groton, Conn., August 19, 1763, a colonial subject of George IV., and a witness of some of the exciting scenes of the American Revolution, among which was the burning of New London by the British. He was a pupil of Nathan Daboll of arithmetic fame. On the 8th of August, 1796, Mr. Avery took up his residence at Belleville, Va., after a toilsome journey of 800 miles, having in his train thirteen teams. He there undertook the arduous task of pioneer settlement, sawing his own timber and erecting houses, against the disadvantages, not unknown there, of building in a new country. He was familiar with many of the stirring events of the early settlement of that locality, prominent among which were the romantic incidents in the life of Harman Blennerhasset; his island paradise in the Ohio, and the strange adventures of Aaron Burr connected therewith, of all of which he was personally cognizant. Adverse fortunes at Belleville induced Mr. Avery to remove to Georgetown, Va., about the year 1812, where he engaged in surveying for nearly twenty years. He surveyed and laid out Georgetown. He was an observer of the important political events, being frequently in the society of public men of that period. In the year 1830, through the kindness of Benjamin Butler, who married his sister, he was induced to come to this place, where he resided until his death, April 26, 1860. Mr. Avery was twice married, but had long survived his children, one of whom was a midshipman in the U. S.

Navy, with Commodores Rogers and Decatur, and died in 1815. Mr. Avery voted at every election for president since the formation of the government, which act was performed by him with a religious sense of duty. When his life journey began, Napoleon and Wellington were yet to be; during his career the leaders of the English parliament and of the American Revolution, that race of Titans, have lived and died; the wars of Napoleon and the war of Independence have become historical, and a new republic, with a network of railroads and a web work of electric wires, have been extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The latter years of Mr. Avery's life were passed quietly. On Tuesday, November 9, 1859, at the age of 97, he deposited his last vote, and while he extended his feeble hand to present the ballot, there was manifest a solemn feeling, as if a cotemporary of Washington had arisen from the tomb, appearing again in person upon the earth.

He was not merely a child of the old block, but the old block itself.
—BURKE.

Gen. Peter Skenendoah Smith.

General Peter Skenandoah Smith, better known as Sken Smith, came from Utica at an early day and remained in Oxford till the spring of 1829. He was the eldest son of Peter Smith, founder of Smithfield, Madison county, who in 1794 succeeded in leasing from the Oneida Indians for a term of 999 years a tract of land comprising over 50,000 acres, and which embraced nearly all of Smithfield and Fenner, that part of Cazenovia lying north of the Gore, a part of Stockbridge, and a large portion of Augusta, in

Oneida county. This tract he secured by treaty with the christianized part of the tribe through negotiations with their chief, Skenandoah, a warm friend of his and after whom he named his son.

Peter Sken Smith was the only brother of Hon. Gerrit Smith, the philanthropist. He was an attractive looking man, nearly six feet in height, strong, active, and commanding in appearance. He was educated at Hamilton College and became a merchant before he had reached his 21st birthday. He established a large store in Utica, and often would buy at one bid a store with its various contents. He soon became involved and failed for upwards of $100,000, and took the benefit of the bankruptcy act. He then entered a law office in Utica as student, and afterwards settled in Sherburne for a few weeks, and then came to Oxford and studied a short time in James Clapp's office. He then went to Pharsalia and entered the law office of John Clapp, where he studied until he was admitted to practice. He married at Catskill, May 15, 1826, Anne V. B. Prentiss, daughter of the Rev. Joseph Prentiss. He then bought the John Rathbone house, better known as the McKoon house in later years, and laid out about $1000 in repairs on the property. In 1829 he removed to Oswego, and afterwards resided in Pennsylvania and Florida, where he was an officer in the U. S. Army, bearing the title of Major-General. For several years he was a prominent politician in Philadelphia, but his eventful life was ended May 6, 1858, in an insane asylum at Springfield, Mass.

A rare jest or witty repartee fell musically from his lips. Many balls and banquets owed their chief attraction to his exquisite tact and courtly manners.

He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home.
—GOETHE.

Stephen Turner.

Stephen Turner was born January 14, 1772, in New London, Conn., and married Patty Prentiss of the same place. Shortly after his marriage he located in Butternuts, Otsego county, and in 1813 came to Oxford and settled in the eastern part of the town. He was industrious and energetic, spending little time in idleness. It is related of him that when he stopped in the field to rest he sat upon a sharp stone that he might not sit too long. With strong hands and a brave heart he cleared the forest and planted the apple, plum, and cherry where the birch, maple, and lofty pine once flourished. He lived in a log cabin until able to build a frame house, which until the present day has been occupied by his descendants. When unable to reach the distant mill, the family subsisted on samp made from corn pounded in a rude mortar. Mr. Turner gave his children what in those days was considered a good education. The daughters were not only well versed in the homely duties of the household, but were proficient in the art of fine embroidery and lace making, besides teaching the three Rs in the district school. Children:

MARGARET, married Lucius Parker and settled in Steuben county.

NANCY, married Simeon Parker, brother of Lucius, and settled in the same county.

MARTHA, married Abel Polly and moved to Kansas.

STEPHEN PRENTISS, married Lucinda Harris.

Stephen Prentiss Turner, born September 23, 1806, in Butternuts, Otsego county; died December 24, 1900, in Oxford. Married February 25, 1834, Lucinda Harris of Guilford, N. Y., born September 27, 1814; died December 4, 1867, in Oxford.

Prentiss Turner came to Oxford in 1813 with his parents when but seven years of age. He was not favorably impressed with his new home and the surroundings, and longing for his former playmates he started early one morning to return to his former home. When search for him proved unavailing, his father recalled how homesick the lad had been, decided to go to Butternuts, where, to his delight, Prentiss was found among relatives. He had traveled the whole distance, over twenty miles, in one day by means of marked trees. It is not stated what course the father took to impress upon the mind of his son that it would be better for him to remain at home. It was, however, effectual, for during a life of fourscore years he seldom left his home, either for business or pleasure, till the infirmities of age made it necessary for him to seek a home with his children. Children:

Samuel, died in infancy.

Francis M., married T. M. Williams.

Joseph P., married Mary C. Stone; died January 28, 1884.

Simeon A., married Lucina M. Post.

Richard M., married Christianna Walker.

Nelson J., married Helen R. Ives.

Lucinda A., died November 12, 1848.

Martha M., married Hubert Post.

Learned he was in med'c'nal lore,
For by his side a pauch he wore,
Replete with strange hermetic powder.
—*Butler.*

Dr. Perez Packer.

Among the eight children born to William and Persis Packer, who left Guilford, Vt., in 1804, and took up about 300 acres in Preston, was Perez, born January 31, 1790. He became a physician and commenced practicing at Latham's Corners, in the town of Guilford, about the opening of the war of 1812, but soon after removed to Oxford and resided in the house now occupied by Charles W. Brown. He became noted in his profession, and his circuit of practice was very wide. As a surgeon he had no superior in those early days. During the year 1823 he went to France for the benefit of his health, and while there attended chemical and anatomical lectures in Paris. Among those who were students in his office were the late Dr. Benjamin H. Throop of Scranton, Dr. Austin Rouse and Dr. William G. Sands of Oxford. Dr. Packer died of consumption in Oxford July 10, 1832, aged 42, honored and respected. His wife, who was formerly Miss Nancy Davis of Oxford, died February 16, 1843, aged 47. Their children were:

William W., married Mary D., daughter of Colonel Otis J. Tracy, and carried on the drug business while practicing dentistry four or five years till his death, which occurred March 21, 1851, at the age of 32.

Nancy Maria, married Roswell Hewett of Preston, and died at Havana, N. Y., September 1, 1849, aged 29.

CAROLINE, aged 19, in attempting to alight from a carriage to which a restive horse was attached, was so violently thrown against a wall in this village as to induce concussion of the brain, which resulted in her death May 16, 1845.

THEODORE S., died March 28, 1855, aged 26.

A peace above all earthly dignities,
A still and quiet conscience.

—SHAKESPEARE.

Joel Smith.

Joel Smith was born in Southington, Ct., December 9, 1781. His father was a Connecticut patriot, who served in the Continental army, and who brought up his children in the old-fashioned New England way, "in the fear and admonition of the Lord." In 1812 Joel Smith left his home in Southington and came to Oxford, making the journey of about 200 miles with a pair of oxen attached to a genuine Connecticut cart. The spot where he located is known as "The Desserts," about six miles southeast of the village. He cleared away the dense forest for a home, and in a few weeks his wife and two children came with Romeo Warren, for many years a prominent resident of Coventry, who drove from Connecticut with a fine pair of black horses. Mr. Smith built a stockade for his sheep and on many a night was aroused from his slumbers by the howling of wolves, which he drove away with firebrands or by lustily blowing a tinhorn. Long afterward Mr. Smith described his journey to the "Chenango country" by forbidding roadways through unbroken forests, through sparsely set-

tled valleys and the cabins of the settlers with their genial hospitality, till the embryo village of Oxford was reached. The surrounding country was a primeval wilderness, with here and there a settler who, with ax and brush hook, was making a clearing. His children during their youth suffered all the vicissitudes of frontier life, and attended such transcient schools as were open in the neighborhood. Mr. Smith after residing in Oxford many years moved to Coventry, from there to Guilford, thence to Newark Valley, N. Y., where he lived for over twenty years, and died October 27, 1878, in his 97th year. He married (1) November 22, 1809, Almira Bradley of Northampton, Mass.; married (2) May 13, 1812, Sophia Andrews of Southington, Ct., born March 20, 1787; died October 9, 1877, in Newark Valley. Child by first wife:

Mary Almira, born September 26, 1810, in Southington, Ct.; married (1) William Copley; married (2) Peter Moore; married (3) Lambert Bradley. Resides in Newark Valley. Children by second wife:

Lois Sophia, born December 16, 1812, in Southington, Ct.; married Almander Sprague. Resides in Binghamton.

Emma Ann, born November 16, 1814, in Oxford; died September 30, 1904, in Owego; married Samuel Blair.

Eliza Maria, born September 14, 1816, in Oxford; married Andrew McNeil.

Lucena Elizabeth, born June 23, 1818, in Oxford; died June, 1851, in South Oxford; married John Guernsey of South Oxford.

Sarah Ann, born March 24, 1821, in Oxford. Resides in Oxford. Unmarried.

Juliaett, born January 6, 1823, in Oxford; died September 19, 1844, in Owego. Unmarried.

Phebe Louisa, born October 17, 1825, in Oxford; died October 1, 1905, in Sidney; married Watson Clark.

POLLY LOVINA, twin to above, married Mortimer Chamberlain. Resides in Honeoye Falls, N. Y.

JAMES WILLIAM HENRY, born February 3, 1829, in Oxford; married (1) Angeline Stead; married (2) Kate Bradley; married (3) ——.

SUSAN AUGUSTA, born February 29, 1832, in Oxford; married Stephen W. Ames. Resides in Newark Valley.

Habit with him was all the test of truth.
—CRABBE.

Joseph Mason.

Joseph Mason (Meissonier) was born March 10, 1809, in the southern part of France, and lived with his parents on a farm, which was afterwards sold off into building lots and became a part of the city of D'Hyeres. When Dr. Perez Packer of Oxford spent the winter of 1823-24 in France he boarded with a family named Meissonier. They had a large family, some ten or twelve children, and the doctor became very fond of one little boy, Joseph, the subject of this sketch. The family was poor, the mother dead, and there was but little prospect of providing for so many. The eldest daughter, Eugenia, filled her mother's place to the best of her ability and cared for the younger children. When Dr. Packer proposed to them to give Joseph to him to take home to America, there was naturally great hesitation and reluctance, as they would never see him again, which they never did. The father gave his consent, and Joseph was brought to Oxford, and while not legally adopted was brought up as one of the family. The school children could not pronounce his name and used to call

him "French Joseph" and "Mason," and eventually he went by the latter name.

Mr. Mason did light chores for the doctor. One day just at twilight he was in the woodhouse with an armful of kindlings and looking through the doorway saw a figure clothed in white on the lawn. He dropped the wood, ran into the house and, not having yet mastered English, said in French, "My father is dead!" He was greatly overcome and the family talked and tried to comfort him, making inquiries as to why he felt that his father was dead. He replied that he had seen an angel. At the time the family thought but little of it, but several months after the news came that his father died just at that hour. Papers were sent on for Dr. Packer to sign, and from that time Mr. Mason never heard from his people again. In 1875 Ameida Podinier, a cousin, spent several months in Oxford with the family of Mr. Mason. He was an artist and a musician, and spoke seven languages. Mr. Mason died February 11, 1866. Married (1) Louisa DeMont, who died May 30, 1842; married (2) in 1845 Nancy Smith, born January 13, 1816; died October 10, 1888. Child by first wife:

Henry DeMont, born April 16, 1842; died October 19, 1864. Sergeant Co. H, 114th Regt. N. Y. V. Killed at battle of Cedar Creek. Children by second wife:

Charles W., born November 8, 1846; died February 28, 1847.

George Frederick, born May 21, 1848.

Mary Gertrude, born October 12, 1851; married October 7, 1875, Edward L. Stratton. Children: Henry Meissonier, Frederick Lynn, born January 12, 1882; died November 2, 1902; Emmett Abel.

William Hubert, born January 11, 1855; married (1) Jennie Lake; married (2) November 22, 1904, Nancy Hill.

Here files of pins extend their shining rows,
Puffs, Powders, Patches, Bibles, Billet-doux.—Pope.

Cyrus Tuttle.

Cyrus Tuttle, born in 1793, at Middlebury, Ct., came to Oxford, then in the far west, about the year 1814. He had formed those thrifty and economical habits characteristic of the place of his birth, and was endowed by nature with an inherent love of trade, which was almost a passion in his case. He was possessed with a remarkable intuition regarding the relation of the lesser to the greater as applied to the laws of trade, and conducted his business, that of a general storekeeper, always on the principle that "Many a little makes a mickle." When in want of some certain article not to be found at other stores it was said, "Go to Tuttle's and you'll find it," which often proved the case. Thus with forecast, caution, and perseverance, adding dollar to dollar for nearly forty years, Mr. Tuttle was enabled by the severest economy and greatest self-denial to secure a fine competency. But, with all the exactions of a busy life he was duly sensible of his duties as a man and as a Christian, having filled the office of vestryman and warden of St. Paul's church, of which he was also treasurer for many years, and until his death. He began business in 1834, and built the stone block on North Canal street in 1843, where he continued till his death, July 20, 1870. The stone for his block was quarried near the river bridge at South Oxford by George Symonds and brought here on canal boats. Its cost was about $450 only. In 1850 Mr. Tuttle opened a branch store in East Greene, now Brisbin, which was continued about two years. Mr. Tuttle married

in Oxford Catherine Bennett, who died November 23, 1867, aged 74. Their adopted daughter, Catherine, died March 25, 1889, aged 52. She married, May 9, 1860, James B. Brown of New York, who died December 23, 1902, in New York. Children: Gertrude, Catherine, and Philip. The daughters reside in New Haven, Ct.

He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small,
That dares not put it to the touch,
To gain or lose it all.

—MONTROSE.

Cornelius Conover.

While the country was yet new, Cornelius Conover, of Dutch descent, with his wife, whose maiden name was Polly Furman, came from Glen, Montgomery county, and settled at South Oxford in the section known as "The Desserts." They brought all their worldly possessions in a cart drawn by oxen, and on the journey were often alarmed, though unmolested by wild beasts. Through his efforts the farm now occupied by his daughter, Julia, was made to blossom and bring forth the fruits of civilization and prosperity. He erected a frame house instead of the usual log cabin of the pioneer, and one standing in the large fireplace could look up the stone chimney and see the branches of the trees waving overhead. Mr. Conover and family attended church at Coventryville and went through the forest guided by marked trees. Deer often came to the brook near the house, but were unmolested by him, al-

though he had firearms. Mr. Conover's second wife was Julia Horton of Coventry, who was born in Connecticut.

Children by first wife:

Solomon, married Roxy Barton.

Isaac, married Eliza Applegate.

Jane, married Obadiah Canniff of Cincinnatus.

Jemima, married Leonard Horton of Coventryville.

Children by second wife:

Furman, died unmarried.

Peter J., married Ann L. Havens.

Julia, unmarried; lives on the homestead farm.

Mary, married Franklin Knickerbocker of Cincinnatus; died April 14, 1900, in Holly, N. Y.

For we the same are that our sires have been.
—Knox.

Judson Family.

The Judson brothers, David, John, Lewis, Everett, and Philo, came to Oxford in 1812 from Stamford, Ct., and conducted a woolen mill on the Georgetown road for several years. John, Lewis, and Everett finally moved from town; the latter died October 27, 1864, at Candor, N. Y., aged 71. David purchased the property now known as the David G. Barber place, and resided there until his death. Philo came into the village and conducted a mill near the present site of the Harrington block. He lived on Washington street, in the house now occupied by Miss Clarinda Lewis. Their father, John Judson, was a Revolutionary soldier.

David P. Judson was born February 28, 1786, in Stamford, Conn.; died February 15, 1862, in Oxford; married (1) in 1812, Jerusha Stillson of Stamford, Conn., born June 14, 1791; died April 9, 1832, in Oxford. Married (2) April 4, 1833, Melinda Billings of Preston, N. Y., born in Preston; died October 4, 1892, in Oxford.

Children by first wife:

Lewis, born in 1815; died June 17, 1817; poisoned by arsenic, which he found while at play in the mill.

Caroline, born in 1819; died November 24, 1821, from scalds received by falling into a dye vat.

Charles, married Julia Jerome. Died in 1900.

Julia E., married Orville L. Mead. Died August 17, 1855. Child by second wife:

Cordelia T., married November 9, 1886, James W. Sherwood, and resides in Oxford.

Philo Judson, after the death of his wife, Charity, July 26, 1851, went to Omaha, Neb., to reside with his son, where he died January 9, 1872.

Children: Joseph, died September 6, 1828, aged 4; Orman B., Augustus, Charles, Henry Martin, Philo M., died May 21, 1850, aged 28; Jane E., died January 4, 1853, aged 26.

He is the happiest, be he king or peasant,
who finds peace in his home.
—Goethe.

Denison Family.

William Denison, born in 1705, lived at North Stonington, Conn., was twice married and the father of eleven children. He died January 29, 1760. His fifth child, Daniel Denison, was born July 20, 1740, and married

Martha Geer, an English lady from Groton, Conn., in 1771. About 1800 they emigrated to Pharsalia, this county, where he purchased large tracts of land and settled on lot 70 in that town. They left their Connecticut home surrounded with the comforts and luxuries that wealth could bestow. When they reached Chenango county it was almost a wilderness, and the wolves and bears came howling around their log cabin. All their grain was carried to Binghamton to be ground. It was carried on horseback, and as there was no road they went by blazed trees. Daniel Denison was a man of considerable prominence and remained in Pharsalia until 1802, when he sold his real estate to his son, William, who already owned a large tract in that town, and came to Oxford, purchasing of Solomon Dodge what is now known as the Morse farm, and died there in 1817. He built the first frame house and barn in Pharsalia, and a house on the Morse farm, which within a few years has been replaced by a more modern structure. When he came here there was no church and the meetings were held at his house. He was a large, strong-built man of commanding appearance and a bravery no opposition could intimidate. They had seven children—HANNAH, born in 1772, married William Popple; PRUDENCE, born in 1775, married James Dennison, Jr.; WILLIAM, born in 1777, married Betsy Ledyard; MARTHA, born 1779, married a Mr. Spaulding; MARY, born 1782, died unmarried; EMMA, born 1784, died unmarried; DANIEL, born 1787, married Betsey Hunt of Oxford.

William, who married Betsey Ledyard, remained in Pharsalia only a few years, and then moved to Oxford. His house stood where St. Paul's church now stands.

Daniel, Jr., who married Betsey Hunt, after a few years moved to Cleveland, O., where he died July 1, 1865, aged

78. Mrs. Denison died before he left Oxford. They had six children:

EMMA AMELIA, born in 1815, married VanRensaeller Richmond. She lived and died May 18, 1854, in Lyons, Wayne county. Their children were: Denison, Frank E., and Emma.

BETSEY ANN, born in 1816.

MARY JANE, born in 1817, married Charles McNeil of Oxford, September 22, 1838. They moved to Cleveland, O., in 1852.

WILLIAM HENRY, born in 1819, married Ruth Thomas. Five children were born to them while living in Chicago, where both died: Daniel and William, both killed in the Civil war; Frank, Lydia, and Loren. Lydia was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Purdy of Cleveland, married George H. Foote and died in that city, leaving three children: Helen, Charles, and Mary.

CHARLOTTE REBECCA, born in 1820, married Nelson Purdy of Oxford, died at Green Spring, O., August 20, 1895.

CORNELIA LUCEBA, born in 1825.

Whose names yet run smoothly in the even road of a blank verse.
—SHAKESPEARE

Peter and John Dodge.

About the year 1800 Peter and John Dodge, with their sister Ruth, left their Vermont home and came to Oxford to reside with their uncle, Solomon Dodge. Peter married Matilda Sheldon. Their children, all born in Oxford, were: Otis, Lyman, Eliza, married James Carpenter, born in Exeter, Otsego county. They lived for several years on

the farm above the village now owned by Edward B. Barber, and in 1831 moved to Troupsburg, N. Y., and died there; Lucy, Nancy, and Cornelia.

John Dodge married in 1801 Mary Burghardt, daughter of Peter Burghardt, and lived and died in Oxford. They first lived on Panther hill, and in 1806 settled on the farm on the east hill now occupied by Ward H. Moore, a descendant. Mr. Dodge died September 4, 1847. Mary, his wife, died September 26, 1855. Children, all born in Oxford:

Lucretia, born June 17, 1803; died December 31, 1859; married Lyman Root, born October 13, 1798; died August 29, 1880.

Sally, born June 17, 1806; married in 1833 Philo Burlingame. Moved to Cuba, N. Y., where they both died and were buried in the Franklinville cemetery.

John, born July 27, 1808; died October 5, 1869; married (1) June 4, 1834, Maria Allen, born March 27, 1813; died October 15, 1839. Married (2) October 16, 1842, Amanda C. Sheldon, born August 25, 1824. In 1906 still living. Child by first wife: Ella Maria, born May —, 1835; died in infancy. Child by second wife: Alice L., born May 1, 1844; married Lewis Rowe of Schoharie House, N. Y. Mr. Dodge held the office of sheriff of the county, and was a man prominent in local affairs, both in Oxford and Guilford.

Peter, born October 4, 1810; died October 23, 1839; married January 26, 1835, Mary P. Lewis of Norwich; died February 5, 1896, in Cortland. She married (2) June 23, 1858, Colonel Ezra M. Stratton of Roxbury, N. Y., who died October 24, 1876. Children of Peter and Mary (Lewis) Dodge: Christianna O., born October 27, 1835; married February 21, 1855, D. D. Shepard of Oxford, and resides in Oxford. (Children, LaVerne and Addie L.)

Anolia P., born May 23, 1837; married April 12, 1864, Richard T. Husted of Lisle. (Child, Lura F., born September 8, 1869; died in 1903.) Augusta P., born December 6, 1838; married May 9, 1857, Harry J. Wattles of Lisle, N. Y. (Children, Mason D., Louis and Louise, twins.)

Mary Ann, born November 17, 1814; died December 17, 1889; married June 5, 1834, John Moore.

Laurette, born June 30, 1818; died July 16, 1901; married April 7, 1841, Munson Smith.

Harriet N., born June 19, 1821; died April 21, 1886; married Charles B. Moore.

James, born November 9, 1824; died in infancy.

James Oscar, born August 25, 1830; died July 7, 1896, in Oxford; married (1) March 25, 1855, Elizabeth A. Roys of Oxford, born January 16, 1837; died August 6, 1870. Married (2) October 26, 1871, Lavina B. Hull of North Haven, Conn. Child by first wife: Loyal I., married Addie L. Stork of Coventry. (Child, Elizabeth V.) Children by second wife: Margaret I., died in infancy; Mary Genevieve, married November 1, 1898, Arthur C. Lewis; died May 11, 1901.

Worth makes the man, and want of it the fellow;
The rest is all but leather or prunello.
—Pope.

Job Willoughby.

Job Willoughby, a very worthy man, was a pioneer who in the early part of the nineteenth century settled on the east side hill of Oxford. He encountered many incidents on his way to the new settlement by a blazed trail, and his struggles in the forest to establish a home. He followed agricultural pursuits for many years, and was strong in his

devotions, loyal in his relationship to men and principles, and frank and open in all his utterances. Nothing is now known in regard to his wife. Children:

JOHN, lived and died in Oxford. Unmarried.

IRA, married Minerva Colson of Poolville, N. Y., a lady much respected. After her death, which occurred May 20, 1864, at the age of 63 years, he then well advanced in age, went to Kansas, where he died. Their home for many years was on State street. Mr. Willoughby was very eccentric, and for a long period was "the town fiddler," whose services were frequently required for dances, also for picnics at Lake Warn, when that resort was very popular and reached by canal. His favorite song, which he used to sing to his own violin accompaniment, was:

He shot him a goat,
To make him a coat,
And his beard hung down like a Jew so;
By all that was civil,
He looked more like the devil,
Than he did like Robinson Crusoe.

Children of Ira and Minerva (Colson) Willoughby: FREDERICK STANLEY MONTGOMERY, born about 1824; while a student in Oxford Academy, from 1838 to 1846, composed a poem of several cantos of much merit, entitled "The Indian Queen of Chenango," which was dedicated to his intimate friend, William H. Hyde, Esq. He graduated from Union College and then went South on account of delicate health, later became principal of a leading academy in Washington, D. C., where he also read law. Just as a brilliant career opened for him he died of yellow fever near Charlestown, Virginia, September 28, 1849, aged 25 years. ALFRED, possessing a genial disposition, located in Illinois, where he married and died October 16, 1867, in Nebraska City, aged 35. ELLEN MINERVA, married and went to Missouri, where she died, leaving one daughter. EDGAR RODNEY, enlisted during the Civil war, was a good

soldier, but never returned. ROSALIE MARIE, married James Coley, then a teacher in Oxford Academy. They moved to Iowa, where she died in her twenty-second year, leaving two daughters. Her husband, in 1905, was still living at the age of 83 years. A singular coincidence of the family of Ira Willoughby is that no two members of the family are buried in the same state.

RUSSELL W., resided on Butler street, then known as Red street. He also played the violin and followed the occupation of a carpenter. For many years he had a clock dial set in the siding of his house facing the street, which for the passerby or neighbor answered the purpose of a town clock. He had a peculiar faculty of calling to him any cat, however wild, which he could pick up and caress. His death occurred December 22, 1869, aged 55. Ruth, his wife, died February 28, 1862, aged 52 years.

JAMES, a wanderer for many years, finally returned home to die.

ZEBULON, moved to Cooperstown, where he died.

ALMIRA, married Reuben Doty of Oxford.

He believed that he was born not for himself,
but for the whole world.
—LUCAN.

John Perry.

Deacon John Perry, born in 1781 at New London, Conn., died suddenly in Oxford June 3, 1857. For more than two score years he had been a member of the Oxford Baptist church, and was one of the constituent members, and the last but one of the little band who first received fellowship as a church.

Deacon Perry's first wife was Mary Welch of New London, Conn., whose death on April 21, 1830, was of a distressing character. At that time their residence was on Washington avenue, a little story and a half house on the site of the present residence of Millard C. Loomis, Esq. Ebenezer, their eldest son, was in his room and had taken down a gun preparatory for a hunting trip. Having forgotten that the weapon was loaded, he snapped the flint and its contents were immediately discharged. Mrs. Perry was in the garden and directly in range; the ball passed through the side of the house, struck the right arm of the unfortunate woman about four inches from the shoulder, passed through her body and lodged in the left shoulder. She fell to the ground and immediately expired. At her funeral, which was largely attended, Elder Jabez Swan preached a sermon which took three hours to deliver.

Deacon Perry's second wife was Lydia ——, whose death occurred April 4, 1869, at the age of 77.

Children by first wife:

Ebenezer W., died April —, 1875, at Tuscola, Mich., aged 68.

John, died suddenly November 1, 1896, in Tuscola, Mich., aged 74.

Reuben F., died February 18, 1864, in Brooklyn, N. Y., aged 40.

Laura, died March —, 1897, at Atlantic City, N. J. Married Dr. Augustus Willard of Greene. Child: Anna, married George W. Connely of Atlantic City, N. J. John died in New Jersey.

Mary, died January 27, 1905, in Greene. Married Addison Dudley Adams.

Maria Louise, died March 4, 1903, aged 92, in Oxford; married Oliver Rhodes of Oxford.

DORCAS, married Erastus Main of Friendship, N. Y.

FANNY, died March 26, 1881, aged 73. Married Palmer P. Yeomans of Oxford. Children: Rufus P., married Electa Norton; Fanny, died January 9, 1861, aged 16.

Bold of your worthiness, we single you
As our best moving fair solicitor.
—SHAKESPEARE.

Hon. John Tracy.

Hon. John Tracy, 6th, of Oxford was born at Norwich, Conn., October 26, 1783. His descent from Lieutenant Thomas Tracy of Norwich, Conn., was in this wise. His father was:

John the 5th, who married Esther Pride.

John the 4th, who married Margaret Huntington.

John the 3d, who married Margaret Hyde.

John the 2d, who married Elizabeth Liffingwell.

John the 1st, who married Mary Winslow.

Lieutenant Thomas Tracy of Norwich.

Mr. Tracy, with his father's family, journeyed on horseback at an early day to Columbus, this county. In 1805 he came to Oxford and was deputy clerk under Uri Tracy. Having pursued the study of law with Stephen O. Runyan, he was admitted in 1808 as an attorney in the Supreme Court, and commenced the practice of his profession in this village. His rulings in law were never reversed in the Court of Appeals. He was appointed examiner and master in chancery, and in March, 1815, received the appointment of Surrogate of the county. He was a member of Assembly in 1820, 1821, 1822, and 1826, and in 1821 again received the appointment of Surrogate, and in 1823 that of First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, holding these

offices until 1833, when he resigned them. The legislature, in 1830, made him a regent of the university, and in 1831 he was appointed Circuit Judge of the sixth district, but declined the appointment. In 1832 Mr. Tracy, then called Honest John, was elected Lieutenant-Governor, with William L. Marcy, Governor; and with him was re-elected in 1834 and 1836. In 1846 he was elected from Chenango county, with Colonel Elisha B. Smith as his colleague, a delegate to the convention for revising the constitution, and was chosen president of that distinguished body, which had on its roll the names of Ira Harris, Ambrose L. Jordan, Samuel J. Tilden, Samuel Nelson, Charles O'Connor, and Michael Hoffman.

Mr. Tracy's interests in all good works for the permanent improvement and welfare of the village was repeatedly manifested, and the Academy, of whose board of trustees he was for years the president, and St. Paul's church, of whose vestry he was a member, and a warden at his death, will bear evidence to his worth in faithful and affectionate remembrance.

Mr. Tracy married August 5, 1813, Susan Hyde, daughter of Joseph Hyde, of Franklin, Conn., who died February 3, 1864, aged 76, survived but a short time by her husband, who died in the following June at the ripe age of four score years. They had one son and two daughters:

John, born at Oxford, June 20, 1820, and was the seventh John in descent from Lieut. Thomas Tracy. He was drowned while skating on the Chenango river, December 24, 1829.

Esther Maria and Susan Eliza, twins, born April 9, 1816. The former married Henry R. Mygatt, Esq., and died June 25, 1895, in New York City. The latter married James W. Clarke and died October 15, 1906, in New York City.

In requital ope his leathern scrip,
And show me simples of a thousand names,
Telling their strange and vigorous faculties.
—Milton.

William G. Sands, M. D.

Dr. William G. Sands was a son of Judge Obadiah Sands, a native of Sands Point on Long Island, descended from Capt. James Sands, an Englishman, who came to this country about 1642, landing at Plymouth.

Dr. Sands was born in Bainbridge, N. Y., November 5, 1810. About the year 1828 he was in attendance at Oxford Academy, and immediately thereafter commenced and completed his course of studies here as a physician and surgeon with Dr. Perez Packer, and graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City in 1832. He returned to Oxford and until the death of Dr. Packer practiced with him. Later he was associated with Dr. William P. Holmes for a short period. In 1842 he entered into the drug business, having purchased the stock of goods formerly owned by Clarke & Babcock. After a time he took into partnership with him, his brother, Frederick A. Sands and James H. Fox, which was dissolved in December, 1850, Mr. Fox continuing the business.

Dr. Sands retired from the active practice of his profession in 1864, and thereafter devoted his time largely to the care of his large and increasing estate, and to the numerous trusts as guardian and trustee for others, which he discharged with great fidelity and probity. He was elected to the Assembly, with Solomon Ensign, Jr.,

and Hiram E. Storrs, as members from this county, in 1846, and was also Supervisor of the town in 1852. He died suddenly June 14, 1889, leaving an estate valued at from $500,000 to $600,000. Dr. Sands married October 26, 1837, Sarah Eliza, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Washburn) Mygatt, born January 6, 1818, in Oxford; died July 2, 1890, at Vallonia Springs, N. Y. Children:

Clarissa Donnelly, died in infancy.

Maria Clarissa, born November 26, 1839; died March 4, 1870; married December 31, 1867, Peter W. Clarke.

Sarah Washburn, born January 13, 1842; died March 7, 1869; married October 1, 1859, Henry L. Wade. Children: William Henry, died in infancy; William Sands, died in infancy.

Catherine Odessa, born October 15, 1852; died October 7, 1890; married January 17, 1882, Joseph E. Packard. Children: Edith; Henry, died July 7, 1893; William Guthrie; Katharine.

From labor there shall come forth rest.
—Longfellow.

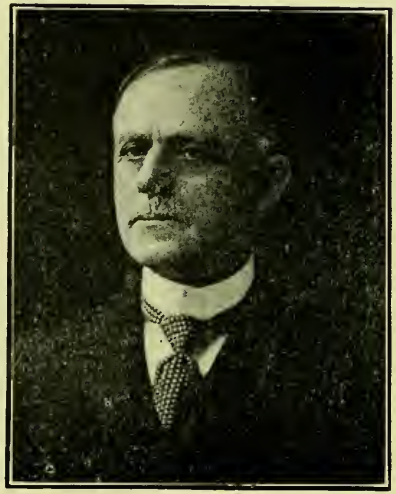
Daniel Dudley.

Daniel Dudley was born in Alstead, New Hampshire, August 6, 1808, where his early years were spent on a farm. He came to Oxford in the autumn of 1830 and taught school the following winter in the old schoolhouse east of the village, near the old Bush tavern, not very far from where the station of the N. Y., O. & W. railway now stands. In the spring of 1831 he started to learn

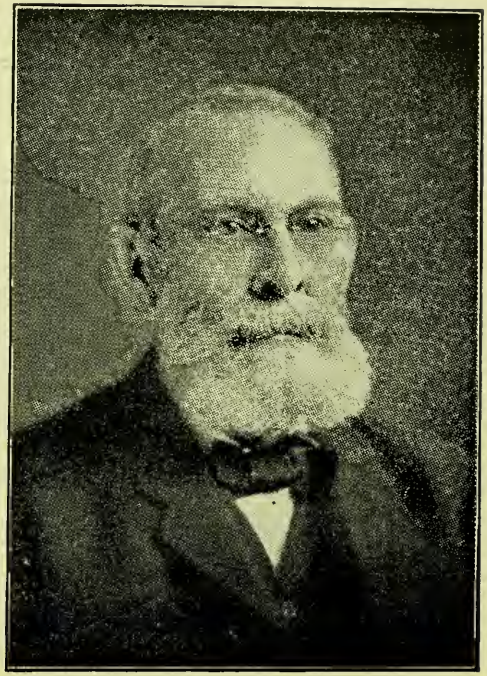
the wagon making trade with Col. Tarbell. After serving a proper apprenticeship he formed a partnership with James Durham and they carried on the business together for a couple of years, when Mr. Durham withdrew from the firm and went to Norwich. Mr. Dudley continued the business and about 1836 built the house on Washington avenue, now owned by Mrs. Charles M. Dodge, and carried on the business of wagon making in it for some twenty-three years, a portion of the time also having quite an extensive cooperage in the same building.

Mr. Dudley married, in 1834, Miss Miranda Bemis, born November 10, 1811, who had come from Stafford, Conn., two years previous. In 1860 Mr. Dudley gave up his business and bought a farm in Dodge Hollow, west of the village, where he lived some six years. In 1866 he moved to Maine, Broome county, where he engaged in farming for twelve years, and then went to Binghamton, where he died February 19, 1884. Mrs. Dudley died May 24, 1891, in Altoona, Pa.

Mr. Dudley joined the Methodist church soon after he came to Oxford, and, for a number of years, was one of its trustees. He was one of the three members of the building committee, which had in charge the erection of the church edifice where this society now worships. He served a full term in the old volunteer fire department in this village and was quite fond of the organization. He took a prominent part in the organization of the Republican party in Chenango county, and, although at one time yielding considerable local influence in the new party, he neither sought or desired any public office. His most prominent characteristics were integrity, strength of will, and independence in thought and action. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dudley, of whom two, M. Elithea and Mary C., died in infancy. Of the remaining



LEWIS DAYTON BURDICK



CHARLES B. DUDLEY, PH. D.

three, Amanda S., married January 4, 1859, Seth W. Freeman, and died March 14, 1891, in Peoria, Ill.; Charles B., married March, 1906, Mary Virginia Crawford of Bryn Mawr, Pa., and resides in Altoona, Pa.; and Eliza M., married S. S. Allen, and resides in Binghamton.

Charles B. Dudley, Ph. D., was born in Oxford, April 14, 1842. His early years were spent in the district school, and later Oxford Academy, in the fall and winter, and in working on a farm in summer. August 6, 1862, he enlisted as a private in the 114th Regiment, N. Y. V., and was made a Corporal July 1, 1864. He was in seven battles, participating in the siege of Port Hudson in 1863; in the Red River campaign in the spring of 1864, and was finally severely wounded in the battle of Opequan Creek, in the Shenandoah Valley, September 19, 1864. He was then mustered out of the service and sent to the hospital.

The studious habits, which may be said to have characterized Dr. Dudley's whole life, manifested themselves even during his army service. During one winter, while the army was in winter quarters at Franklin, Louisiana, he had his Latin grammar and reader sent to him, and devoted many hours of his camp leisure to a study of that language.

Returning home in 1865, he began to prepare for college at Oxford Academy, and entered Yale College in the fall of 1867, graduating as A. B. in the class of '71. The next year was spent in newspaper work in New Haven, obtaining means to prosecute further studies, and to pay off obligations already incurred during the previous four years. Having no independent means of his own Dr. Dudley obtained quite a portion of the funds needed to secure an education by working at whatever could be found to be done, both in vacation and in term time. In the fall of

1872 he entered the Sheffield Scientific school of Yale College and graduated in 1874, with the degree of Ph. D., having spent two years largely in chemical study. The next college year was spent as assistant to Dr. George F. Barker, Professor of Physics, at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. During this year some translations of technical papers were made, which were published in the Franklin Institute Journal. In September, 1875, Dr. Dudley accepted the position of teacher of the sciences in Riverview Military Academy at Poughkeepsie, which position he retained only about a month, as on November 10th of the same year he was invited to accept the position of Chemist of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at Altoona, which position he still holds. When he began his work there, no railroad had a chemist as a regular employe, although many of them had occasional chemical work done.

Of the work done by Dr. Dudley, perhaps that which has attracted the most widespread public attention was the study of steel rails made in the early eighties. Another and very important line of work in connection with the laboratory of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Altoona has been the making of specifications for materials. This is perhaps the most exacting and time consuming work that has been undertaken.

Dr. Dudley has twice been abroad on business for the company, once in 1886 to study oil burning on locomotives in Russia, and again in 1900 as delegate to the International Railway Congress in Paris. He has been vice-president of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, and has twice been president of the American Chemical Society. He has been president of the American Society for Testing Materials. He is a member of the English, French and German Chemical Societies, of the Iron and

Steel Institute of Great Britain, and the Verein Deutscher Eisenhuttenleute. He is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and of the Mining Engineers, the Mechanical Engineers, and the Electrical Engineers as well. He is a member of the Union League Club of Philadelphia, the Cosmos Club of Washington, and of the Engineers' Club of New York.

Apart from his professional work, Dr. Dudley spends no small amount of time in connection with the Altoona Mechanics' Library, which under his supervision and the fostering aid of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, contains now over 35,000 volumes.

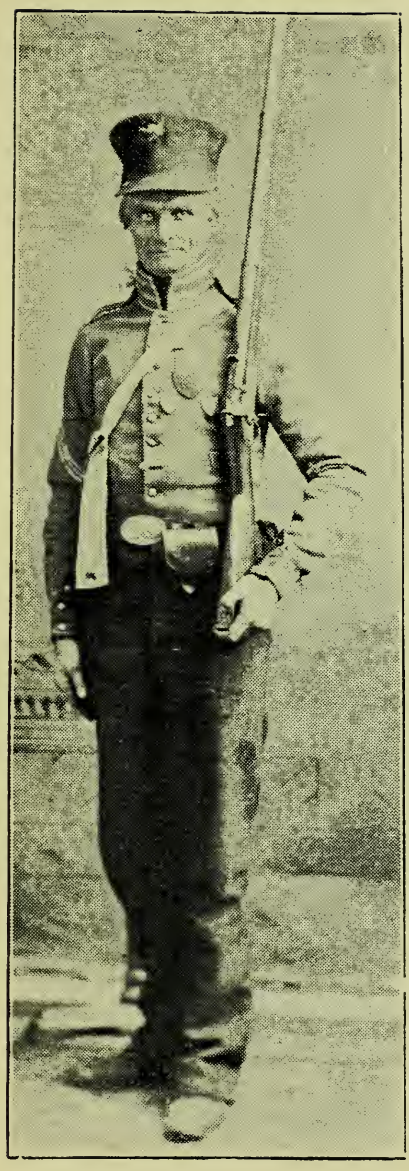
They now to fight are gone;
Armor on armor shone;
Drum now to drum did groan,
To hear was wonder.
—DRAYTON.

Mexican War Volunteers.

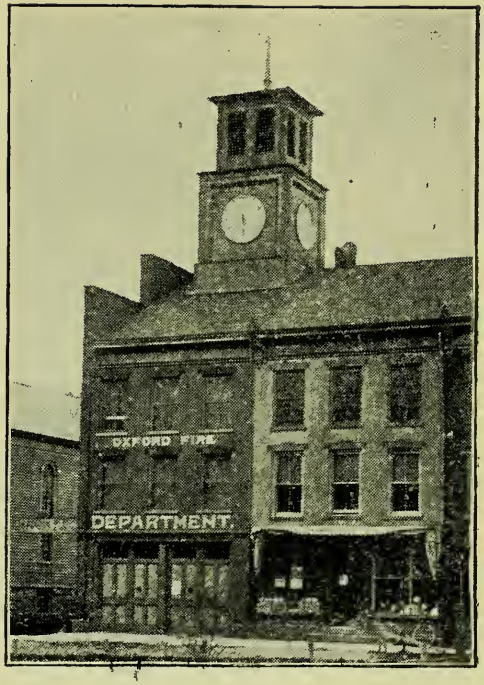
The trouble with Mexico over the annexation of Texas began early in 1846, and Silas Wright, Governor of the State, issued orders in obedience to a requisition from the President, James K. Polk, for seven regiments of volunteer infantry, to be enrolled and held in readiness for muster into the service of the United States for the prosecution of the existing war between the States and the Republic of Mexico. On June 1 James Tyrell, "Captain of the Infantry, of the Town of Oxford," advertised in the village papers that applications from persons desir-

ing to volunteer would be received by him up to the 12th of that month. Having enrolled a company of fifty men, it was organized June 29, by the election of the following officers: James Tyrell, Captain; John Dodge, Jr., First Lieutenant; Daniel A. Johnson, Second Lieutenant; R. H. Sisley, First Sergeant; Hiram Bartoo, Second Sergeant; William Eaton, Third Sergeant; Austin R. Abbott, Fourth Sergeant; Edward M. Osborn, First Corporal; William Bowers, Second Corporal; Josiah L. Clark, Third Corporal; Benjamin Miner, Fourth Corporal. After the transaction of this business the company marched to an adjoining field to the music of the "spirit-stirring drum" and "ear-piercing fife," where it was inspected, and, after performing a few evolutions, was dispersed until called for by "Uncle Sam."

James Terrel enlisted in the company recruited at Oxford, and was sworn into the service at Utica, and assigned to Compony K, 8th United States Infantry. His regiment sailed from New York and joined Major General Scott's army at San Pueblo. He participated in several important battles and with the victorious American army entered the City of Mexico, and saw General Scott when he rode into the city at the head of his staff. The capture of the City of Mexico (September 14, 1847) ended the war, and, on July 26, 1848, Terrel was discharged from the service at Jefferson Barracks below New Orleans. While he remained in the city he, as were many other soldiers, was presented with a stock and a handsome blanket by Mexican ladies. The stock was a leather collar worn around the neck and served to keep the soldier's head up and eyes straight ahead. The soldiers called it a "dog collar." The blanket was stolen from him by a fellow soldier who was hung for stealing, as were eighteen others for the same crime, he witnessing the execution. The portrait of Mr.

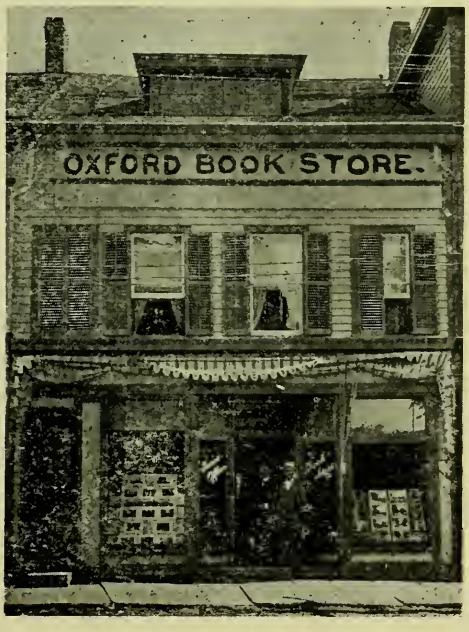


JAMES A. TERREL—A Mexican War soldier



FIRE DEPARTMENT HOUSE, FORT HILL

(The tower was replaced by a modern structure in 1902 on presentation of a new town clock to the village by the Ladies Village Improvement Society.)



OXFORD BOOKSTORE AND TIMES OFFICE—1897.

Terrel represents him in cap with silver eagle, and coat and sash worn while in the service. His musket and other accoutrements he had, at the expiration of his term of service, turned over to Capt. Elisha Kent Kane, who afterwards became famous as an Arctic explorer. The medals shown on the coat were presented to him by the government. One of gold, another of silver, given for special service and bravery; the third, made from captured Mexican cannon, was given in 1878, to all survivors of the war. So far as is known he was the last survivor of that war in this section of the State.

Mr. Terrel died May 12, 1906, and was given a military funeral. Breed Post, G. A. R., escorted the remains to Riverview cemetery, and a delegation from Meade Post at the W. R. C. Home fired three volleys over the grave of the old soldier.

Being myself no stranger to suffering, I have learned to relieve the sufferings of others.
—VIRGIL.

Dr. Casper Bruchhausen.

Dr. Casper Bruchhausen was born on the 28th of August, 1806, at Frankfort on the Main, Germany, and came to America in 1836, locating in Philadelphia. In 1839 he commenced the study of homeopathy with Dr. Charles F. Hoffendahl, a graduate of the University of Berlin, who removed to Albany in 1840, where Dr. Bruchhausen continued his studies with him. He afterwards pursued

his studies with Dr. George W. Cook of Hudson, and subsequently placed himself under the instruction of Drs. Frederick Gray and A. Gerald Hull, who were then the principal practitioners of the homeopathic school in New York City. In August, 1842, at the urgent request of Dr. George W. Roberts, the pioneer homeopathist of Chenango county, Dr. Bruchhausen went to Greene, and the two practiced in company with mutual benefit until May, 1843, when the latter established himself in Oxford. Here he remained until April, 1848, and then permanently located at Norwich. He was twice married, his second wife was Miss Mary Leonard of Oxford, who died in Norwich, September 17, 1883. An adopted daughter, Ellen, married Frederick H. Burchard of Oxford, and now resides in Norwich. Dr. Bruchhausen was an author of considerable poetical ability; many of his poems originally appearing in THE OXFORD TIMES. In 1870 he issued a volume entitled "Rhymes of the Times and Other Chimes." He died in Norwich December 28, 1891, aged 85.

The eternal Master found
His single talent well employ'd.
—JOHNSON.

Elijah B. McCall.

Elijah Brewster McCall, born June 22, 1794, at Lebanon, Conn.; died August 6, 1868, in Oxford; married November 19, 1829, in Oxford, Mahetabel Smith, born April 9, 1807, in Hadley, Mass., died July 14, 1895, in Buffalo. Children:

Eliza, died October 30, 1878, at Sayre, Pa. Unmarried.

John B., married September 3, 1879, Helen L. Morse, at Norwich; residence, Buffalo. Children: Adrian Morse, Mary Eliza.

Elijah Brewster McCall was born on a farm, and came, with his father's family, lineal descendants of one who landed at Plymouth Rock from the Mayflower, to Chenango county in 1807. At an early age he taught school and took up civil engineering, or surveying, at which he became quite expert, thoroughly understanding the history of Central New York and Chenango county in particular. He was an early and active participant in the construction of the Chenango canal, and it is said that he once made a survey of the whole line and that the levels proved to be correct when the canal was completed. He also surveyed the Ithaca & Owego R. R., one of the first in the State.

Mr. McCall was town superintendent of public schools for Oxford for a number of years until the system was changed to school commissioners. He also assisted the students of the old Academy in the practical part of surveying. He was extremely fond of the game of backgammon, and often would be seen in the stores of Cyrus M. Brown and A. F. Bartle, indulging in that pastime.

The barn and office of Mr. McCall was burned March 8, 1853. His entire stock of surveying and engineering instruments, together with a valuable collection of field books and maps of the original surveys of this section of the country, and the records of his own surveys, covering a period of more than thirty years, were destroyed by the flames, involving a loss of $1500, on which there was no insurance.

Man passes away; his name perishes from record and recollection; his history is as a tale that is told, and his very monument becomes a ruin.—Irving.

Gordon Family.

Henry Gordon, born in 1770, was an early resident of Oxford, and settled on and cleared the land now known as the Lobdell farm. He died June 21, 1820. He married Elizabeth Bartle, who was born in 1773, and died in 1854.

Children:

John, born in 1795; died March 24, 1879; married July 7, 1822, Polly Hackett, born April 27, 1798, died October 12, 1889. Children: James H., died in 1845; George W., died in 1853; William A.; Mary J., died November 16, 1864; Harriet; Susan, died October 17, 1864; David B., and Charles A.

Henry, born in 1797.

Margaret, born in 1800; married Artemus Haynes.

Erastus, born in 1802; died in 1873; married, (1) Hannah ———; married, (2) Mrs. Mary Jane (Baker) Bennett, by whom he had two children, Etta and Chester.

Susan, born in 1803; died in 1888; married Nehemiah Smith.

Jeremiah, born in 1806.

Eliza, born in 1808; married ——— Morehouse.

David, born in 1810; died 1837.

Melissa, born in 1813.

Death borders upon our birth, and our cradle stands in our grave.—
Bishop Hall.

Redmond Family.

On the 19th of March, 1851, Owen Redmond and family sailed from Kingston, Ireland, for America on board the "Coronet," a sailing vessel of 1500 tons register, and, after a tedious voyage of eight weeks, arrived in New York City. Mr. Redmond intended to locate in Green Bay, Wis., and came to Oxford to leave his family to rest and recuperate from the strain of the long voyage. His health failed and death closed all his hopes and trials on the 11th of June, 1851. His remains were interred in Riverview cemetery, where his youngest son was laid beside him a few months later.

Mr. Redmond was born in Ballywalter, County Wexford, Ireland. He married Sarah Newton Lett of Tinnacross, County Wexford, Ireland, who died January 18, 1894, in Greene. Mrs. Redmond, in the time of her deep affliction, found many kind sympathizing friends, among whom were the Balcoms and Hydes. In the following October she bought from Henry R. Mygatt, Esq., a farm of 131 acres, now owned by Lazarus Gallagher, on which she lived till 1886. The last seven years of her life were spent in Greene with her son Richard. The closing of her life of sad trials was met with courage and the hope for reward in the better land. Children:

Walter J., married Margaret McKeon, and still resides in Oxford.

Richard Joseph, married M. Clare Nowlan, resides in Greene.

Kittie M., died April 12, 1869, aged 23, unmarried.

Owen, died in infancy.

Daniel W. Redmond, born in Ballywalter, County Wexford, Ireland; died January 16, 1903, in Oxford, aged 84. Mr. Redmond came to Oxford in June, 1851, the day of his brother Owen's funeral. He had a liberal education, and was a man of large experience, having filled the position of paymaster under the government works during the famine period, after which he was in business as malster and cloth merchant in Garey, Ireland. After coming to Oxford he was engaged as clerk and bookkeeper by Clark & Hayes, and afterwards by H. R. Mygatt, Esq., and continued in that vocation for various firms while he lived. Mr. Redmond never married.

John Redmond was born in Ballywalter, County Wexford, Ireland, and came to Oxford in November, 1854. The year following, his brother-in-law, Nicholas Scallen, also came and together they bought the Seeley sawmills, etc., which they worked until failing health obliged them to give up. Mr. Redmond died February 12, 1881, and his wife, Elizabeth Scallen, died in 1873.

Children:

Walter J., married (1) Kate Moore; married (2) Mrs. Judith Conners. Now deceased.

Mary, married James Keyes; died in 1905.

Lawrence, who followed the sea, died in New York City.

Christina, married James Dunn; died in 1906.

Teresa, married Thomas Horan, of Eau Claire, Wis., where she died.

Go where GLORY waits thee;
But, while fame elates thee,
Oh! still remember me.
—MOORE.

Nelson Purdy.

Nelson Purdy, a resident of Oxford for several years previous to 1851, was born in 1819 at Sherburne Four Corners, Chenango county. After learning the carpenter's trade he came to Oxford to follow that occupation. He became identified with the building interests of this place to a great extent, and his first work was on the Methodist church, which he erected. He built a house for himself on Washington avenue, now the home of M. C. Loomis, Esq. He also constructed the residences now occupied by Mrs. O. H. Curtis, Mrs. B. F. Edwards, James G. Van Wagenen, and Frank T. Corbin. His wife was Charlotte Rebecca Denison, daughter of Daniel and Betsey (Hunt) Denison of Oxford, who died August 20, 1895, at Green Spring, Ohio. In 1851 Mr. Purdy moved to Dunkirk, N. Y., and entered into the wholesale lumber business, where he was later joined by his brother-in-law, Charles McNeil of Oxford. In a year or so Mr. Purdy and Mr. McNeil moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where they continued the same business for a number of years. Mr. Purdy died February 20, 1906, in that city, having enjoyed exceptionally good health throughout his lifetime. At the time of his death he was a director of the People's Gas Company, and vice president of the People's Saving and

Loan Association, the latter being one of the most prosperous banks in Cleveland.

Children:

JOHN NELSON.

HENRY DENISON.

HELEN EMMA, died July 14, 1860, aged 6.

A man in any station can do his duty,
and doing it, can earn his own respect.
—DICKENS.

Elihu Cooley.

Elihu Cooley came to Oxford about the year 1838 from Cooperstown. He was born December 15, 1805, in Laurens, Otsego county, N. Y. He was a descendant of Benjamin Cooley, one of the founders of Springfield, Mass., the descent being, Benjamin, came from England, 1620-1684; Daniel, born in Springfield, Mass., 1651-1727; Benjamin, born in Springfield, 1681-——; Ebenezer, born in Wales, Mass., 1716-1753; Barnes, born in Brimfield, Mass., 1748-1844; Samuel, born in Pelham, Mass., 1778-1844; Elihu. His maternal grandfather was Elihu Ackley, a Revolutionary soldier. Mr. Cooley was an architect and builder, and an expert in wood carving.

Mr. Cooley was the builder of the fifth Academy building, and the Methodist church, in which there is a marble tablet containing his name. All the wood carving and fine wood work in St. Paul's church was his handiwork. He had charge at different times of building or improving every church, but one, in town, and many of the old homes contain his handiwork.

He was a Knights Templar, as was his father and grandfather before him. He married in 1829, Asenath Payne, daughter of Edward Payne of Laurens, born in June, 1807; died April 6, 1885, in Oxford. Mr. Cooley died April 17, 1882. His descendants look upon him as a type of the early Puritan, staunch in principle, faithful and conscientious in duty, and stern, but a tender and loving nature. He gave his children a good education, and his eight daughters were graduates of Oxford Academy.

Children of Elihu and Asenath (Payne) Cooley:

Caroline M., born May 5, 1830, in Laurens; married William Haight of Oxford.

Clarissa A., born January 4, 1832, in Laurens; died December 29, 1899; unmarried.

Emeline M., born October 28, 1834, in Laurens; married Daniel C. Winton of Morris.

Edwin Ruthvin, died in infancy.

Adaline S., born March 14, 1838; died May 28, 1904, in Medford, Oregon; married Judge David van Antwerp. She was a gifted and fluent public speaker, and was identified with educational and temperance work for many years in Oregon and Nebraska. She was re-elected four times to the office of Superintendent of Public Schools in Nebraska.

Julia E., born August 15, 1839, in Oxford; married Virgil D. Carruth; resides in California.

Amanda C., born February 13, 1843, in Oxford; married Albert Saunders; resides in California.

Louisa H., born October 28, 1846; married William Moffatt of Oneonta.

Estella M., born January 1, 1848; married James T. Lowry; resides in St. Paul, Minn.

Chester Cole, born January 5, 1851, in Oxford; died May 6, 1865, in Oxford.

Our duty is to be useful, not according to our desires, but according to our powers.
—Amiel.

Rev. Henry Callahan.

Rev. Henry Callahan, born January 5, 1811, at Andover, Mass., came to Oxford June 25, 1850, and was pastor of the Congregational church for the following twelve years. He was prepared for college at the celebrated Philips Academy, at Andover, and graduated from Union College and Andover Theological Seminary. Besides at Oxford he aptly filled pastorates at Niagara Falls and Franklin, N. Y. His residence while here was on Clinton street, now the home of Frank T. Corbin. In 1862 he was appointed Chaplain of the 114th Regt., N. Y. Vols. A severe illness of fever at New Orleans ruined his health so that a full recovery never followed, and he resigned September 19, 1863. Soon after his return from the army he went to Franklin, where he remained for more than twenty years as pastor and teacher, in the latter position he fitted and prepared many young men for college. He was a friend of all, especially to youth, with whom, in social relations, he gained confidence, and with earnest sympathy gave needed assistance. In his home, where a graceful and gracious hospitality always prevailed, and in other homes, he brought the comfort of a bright and tender Christian confidence. Mr. Callahan died at Franklin, February 7, 1888, aged 77. Mrs. Callahan was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jere Allis. Their children who grew to manhood were, Edward, Henry White, Robert Carroll.

Jere Allis, who, with his wife, resided in Oxford for a number of years from 1850 with his daughter, Mrs. Henry Callahan, nearly reached the century mark before his passing away. His death occurred April 19, 1885, in Franklin, N. Y., at the age of 98 years and nine months. His wife, Mary White Allis, died February 2, 1877, in Milwaukee, Wis., aged 83 years. Mr. Allis had voted at every presidential election from 1807, as Federalist, Whig, and Republican. Rarely favored, through exemption from disease, all his faculties remained alert until the last day of his life. Though in his 99th year his habits of activity continued, and every day he would sit at a chopping block, cutting small wood for exercise. He did not relinquish his chair until a day or two before his death. His second daughter, Lucy J., married J. T. Gilbert of Milwaukee, Wis., and died there November 12, 1889.

Throw not the cross away.
Of it the crown is made.
—SOLACE.

St. Joseph's Church.

St. Joseph's (R. C.) church was erected in the fall of 1849. Mr. James Flanagan, the first of the congregation, came to Oxford February 14, 1848, and labored faithfully for the church in this mission. Father James Hourigan of Binghamton was the pioneer of Catholicism in this county, his mission embracing the counties of Broome, Chenango, and Cortland.

Previous to the erection of the church edifice occasional services were held at the residence of Mr. Flanagan, where the first mass in town was celebrated in the fall of 1848. Father Hourigan having appointed the date upon which services were to be held, Mr. Flanagan would notify the people in the neighboring towns, sometimes taking nearly three days to go the rounds. At that time there were five families in Smithville; three in Preston, four in Norwich and only Mr. Flanagan's in Oxford. There was no church, except at Binghamton, and Father Hourigan was the only priest in this mission.

During the pastorate of Father Callen, through his and Mr. Flanagan's exertions, land was purchased for a cemetery of Mr. C. F. T. Locke and paid for by the parishioners. After Father Callen came Father McCabe, whose mission embraced Oxford, Sherburne, Hamilton, Cortland, and Solon. He left this charge in April, 1857, to resume the pastorial duties of his former mission at Malone, N. Y., where he met with a shocking death on the 24th of the following November. He had retired for the night and in some way the bed clothes caught fire, burning him to death. The fire was confined to the room and nothing was known of the lamentable affair until next morning, when his body was discovered. Father McCabe, while a resident of this village, made many friends in and out of his communion.

In the fall of 1870 repairs were commenced on the church and finished the following spring. The building was moved back, an addition of sixteen feet and a new front put in, the auditorium arched, and stained glass windows added. Following is a list of the clergy in their order: Fathers Hourigan, Roach, Callen, McCabe, Brady, McDermont, McAnulty, O'Connell, Harrigan, Finneran, Shay, Cullen, Hart, Mahon, and Purcell.

In 1890 the building now used as a public library was purchased for a rectory, and occupied till the opening of the library, when the present rectory on Scott street was purchased.

Unwept, unhonoured, and unsung.
—Scott.

Adolphus B. Bennett.

Adolphus B. Bennett was among those who served his country during the Revolutionary war, soon after the close of which he came to Oxford. Nothing further is now known in regard to him. Children:

Egbert, died in Oxford; married Gertrude Reichtmier, died June —, 1882, in Des Moines, Iowa. Children: Amanda M., born September 28, 1824, in Homer, N. Y.; married Chester C. Cole; Royal; Ransom, married June 21, 1849, Mary Jane Baker of Utica.

Catherine, married Cyrus Tuttle; died November 23, 1867.

Nancy, married Samuel Wheeler.

Adolphus B., 2d., married Harriet Cary. Child: Charles A., died April 18, 1898, aged 87; married August 30, 1836, Caroline Osgood of Preston, died June 6, 1905, aged 93: Children: Adolphus B., 4th, married Margaret R. Rouse (children, Charles H., infant, died July 13, 1887; Florence B., teacher in public school, New York City). Charles A., 2d, married Mary A. Baldwin; (children, Rebecca B., Thomas B.). Adolphus B., moved to Brantford, Canada, and died there.

So with decorum all things carry'd;
Miss frown'd, and blush'd and then
was married.

—Goldsmith.

Lewis Ketchum.

Lewis Ketchum was born February 14, 1819, at Quaker Hill, Dutchess County, N. Y., and, while yet quite young, came with his parents, Elijah and Anice Ketchum, to Smithville to reside. In 1849 he became a resident of Oxford, having in February of that year bought the Philip Bartle farm on Panther Hill, where he still resides with his granddaughter, Mrs. Baron Gale. Panther, or "Painter Hill" as it is now commonly called, derives its name from the fact that the last panther in this vicinity was killed on it.

Emmarilla Bartle, a comely maid, was a member of Elijah Ketchum's household, and it was not long ere Lewis, then twenty-three years of age, had avowed his love for her. One winter's night, it was the 13th of January, 1842, Thomas S. Purple, a justice of the peace, dropped in to spend a social hour with his neighbors. During a lull in the conversation, Lewis spoke up and said:

"'Squire Purple, can you tie a knot with your tongue that you can't untie with your teeth?"

The 'Squire was not slow in understanding the ardent lover's wants and replied: "That I can, young man. Is it a marriage knot that you want tied?"

"It is," said Lewis, "and I want it done now and right here."

"Very well," answered the 'Squire, as he arose from

his chair, "you take me by surprise and must wait a short time, that I may get over my confusion."

"All right, 'Squire, we'll be ready when you are."

Thus speaking, Lewis crossed the room where Emmarilla was spinning wool on the big wheel, dressed in a light short gown and brown quilted petticoat; her arms were bare, and her hair was gathered away from her flushed cheeks and knotted behind her ears. The wheel was humming a quick measure, and she trod lightly back and forth, the wheelpin in one hand, the other upraised holding the tense, lengthening thread, which the wheel rapidly devoured.

"Emmarilla," fondly spoke the youthful lover, "put away your work, for this shall be our wedding day."

"Wait a while, Lewis," was the shy reply, "I want to get my twenty knots before nine o'clock."

"We'll not wait at all," answered he, and trustingly she placed her hand in his and was led, blushingly, before the Justice.

By this time 'Squire Purple had overcome his nervousness and soon made them man and wife. The parents of the groom witnessed the simple ceremony and with tearful eyes in heartfelt words gave their blessing.

On January 13, 1892, after having passed on life's pathway, through winter storms and summer sunshine for half a century. Mr. and Mrs. Ketchum gathered their friends and relatives together and celebrated their golden wedding. On the second day of the following month Mrs. Ketchum passed away at the age of 69 years.

Children:

HARRIET, died January 14, 1903; married November 8, 1861, George Webb of Oxford.

WARREN E., born September 10, 1850; died in infancy.

ANICE A., born January 3, 1852; died in infancy.

Of right and wrong he taught
Truths as refin'd as ever Athens heard;
And, strange to tell, he practic'd what he preached.
—JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Benjamin Cannon.

Benjamin Cannon was born at Cannonsville, Delaware county, June 11, 1818. He entered Oxford Academy in 1835, where he studied two years, then joined the sophomore class of Union College, graduating in 1840. After finishing his college course, he spent a year in the law office of Judge Amasa J. Parker at Delhi. He continued his studies with Henry VanDerLyn, in this village, and was admitted to the bar in New York city in 1843. During the next year occurred his marriage with Anna M., daughter of Epaphras Miller of Oxford. Remaining here in the practice of his profession until 1850, during which time he was appointed Examiner in Chancery, he removed to Cannonsville, named from his father, where he resided until elected County Clerk of Delaware county in 1853, being reelected in 1856. Returning to Cannonsville in 1859, he passed the intervening years until the spring of 1873, when Mr. Cannon came to Oxford, having purchased the Willcox residence, now the Memorial library. He died at the age of 59, on the 19th of December, 1877. Children:

ROBERT M., born April 26, 1848; married December 22, 1881, Antoinette, daughter of Col. George D. Wheeler of Deposit. Has four daughters. Mr. Cannon is vice president of the Albermarle and Chespeake Canal Co., Norfolk, Va. ELIZABETH B., born May 29, 1850; married January 21, 1875, at Oxford, Robert W. Archbald, now United States Judge at Scranton, Pa. J. LATHROP, died April 7, 1856, in Delhi, aged 4 years. CHARLES B., born March 15, 1856, resides at Cannonsville.

How the Doctor's brow should smile
Crown'd with wreaths of chamomile.
—MOORE.

Mowry Family.

The Mowrys, formerly spelled Morey and Mori, are of English stock and descendants of the Earl of Mori. The first of the name to emigrate to America came over in the Mayflower and settled in Providence, R. I., and afterwards some of the family moved to Whitehall, N. Y. Previous to 1806, Dr. Phillip Mowry, his wife Ruth, and six children came to Oxford from the latter place. Dr. Mowry was a tall, spare man, active till within five years of his death, when the dial of time marked 100 years. Mrs. Mowry died at the age of 90 years. Children:

GEORGE.

WASHINGTON.

George Mowry, born October 23, 1765; died October 23, 1823, in Oxford; married June 11, 1809, Sally Manly of Oxford, born February 26, 1791, died February 26, 1830, in Oxford. Studied and practiced medicine in Oxford, and was very methodical in his ways. He owned and occupied a residence which stood near the present site of the Clarke block, the grounds extending to the river. He and his wife were buried in the old cemetery on State street. Dr. Mowry was about four feet in height and used two canes when walking, which was seldom. His wife always helped him mount his horse whenever his practice called him any distance, and when fairly astride he made a very odd appearance. His legs and arms were those of a tall man, but his body was very short, in consequence of a curvature of the spine, in those days called rickets.

Capt. James Thompson of Norwich frequently told an amusing incident in regard to Dr. Mowry, both of whom were members of the Masonic lodge in this village. Joseph Richmond, a neighbor of Capt. Thompson, came with him one night to Oxford to join the lodge. Richmond was an unassuming man and stuttered when embarrassed. After entering the lodge room Capt. Thompson jokingly said to him that when initiated he would see the devil, as his Satanic majesty always took part in the work. At that instant the door opened and Dr. Mowry entered, stooping forward with flowing hair over his deformed shoulders and reaching out his long silver headed canes directly toward them. Richmond jumped up and excitedly exclaimed: "Goo-od God, th-th-there he comes!" The captain was highly amused and could scarcely restrain his laughter as he arose to greet the doctor.

Dr. Mowry was one of the original members of the Chenango County Medical Society, of which he was the first secretary, an office he held for over fifteen consecutive years.

Washington Mowry, born April 19, 1777; died May 20, 1859, in Oxford; married Hannah Curtis, daughter of Deacon Solomon Curtis, who lived on the farm now owned and occupied by Whitman Mowry. Mrs. Mowry was born April 2, 1782; died July 25, 1870, in Oxford. Washington Mowry, when but a lad of 17, selected the land now known as the George Root farm, and assisted by his father made a clearing near a spring and erected a rude house to live in. He continued to clear and improve the land, and when opportunity offered set out many fruit trees, among which were apple, pear, peach, plum, and cherry. As his means increased he built a large and commodious house and numerous barns, and at his death owned a fine farm of 230 acres. He was an inveterate smoker and a

man of very few words, aside from matters pertaining to his farm.

Children of George and Sally (Manly) Mowry, all of whom were born in Oxford:

Ruth Eliza, born August 10, 1810. After her mother's death lived in the family of Deacon Wm. Gile. Died November 7, 1831.

Sally Cassandra, born January 16, 1812. Lived with family of Dr. Cleveland, druggist. Died June 20, 1831.

George Phillip, born January 28, 1814; died June 28, 1885, in Geneva, N. Y.; married Mary Rodman, who, in 1905, was still living. While a young man clerked in the drug store of Dr. Cleveland in Oxford and later went to Geneva, where he engaged in the drug business with Luther Kelly. Had nine children.

DeWitt Clinton, born May 18, 1816, died July 26, 1848, in Middlebury, Ohio; married Rhoda Allen of Middlebury. Children: Allen and Henry.

Octavia Aldruda, born September 16, 1818; died July 23, 1877, in Flint, Mich. Lived in the family of Samuel Farnham, merchant, for a time and then went to a relative's in Pennsylvania, where she met and married Dr. ——— Fish. They came to Oxford for a three days' visit and then left for Flint, Mich., accompanied by Mrs. Fish's sister, Helena. Children: two sons and two daughters.

Washington Jefferson, born December 28, 1820, is now a resident of Kansas City, Kan. He married in 1850, Mrs. Rhoda (Allen) Mowry of Coventry, Ohio, widow of his brother DeWitt. She died August 23, 1906, at Kansas City, Kan. After the death of his mother Mr. Mowry lived with his uncle, Washington Mowry, four months and then returned home with his aunt, Mrs. Arnold Briggs, of Smyrna, who had come to Oxford to attend the funeral of her mother. There he stayed till he was fifteen years

old and then returned to his Uncle Washington's in Oxford, remaining till after his twenty-first birthday. During this time his uncle never mentioned the name of his brother, the father of his nephew. Becoming tired of farm life, Washington J. drifted westward and located at Akron, Ohio, near where his brother DeWitt lived. Later he engaged in the manufacture of Sarsaparilla beer at New Lisbon, Ohio, and then entered the grocery business at Salem, Ohio, but soon sold out to his partner and returned to New York, where he worked a year and a half for his brother George in Geneva. Still having a fondness for the West he left Geneva and finally located at Turner Junction, Ill., remaining there twenty years. Here he bought land, built a large house, kept boarders and again entered into the grocery trade. During four years of this time was postmaster at Turner Junction. In 1870, with his family, Mr. Mowry again started west for Kansas City, Mo., but, not liking the place, went to Fort Scott, Kan., where he rented and kept a hotel for ten months, then located at Arkansas City, Kan., having been engaged in farming and hotel business. Of his children but one is now living, Wilmot De Lancy Mowry, who is married and resides in Kansas City, Kan.

Helena Cordelia, born April 10, 1823; died May 14, 1900; married in Flint, Mich, John Sutton, a merchant tailor. Children: Lell M., married James Potter, of Flint; George, married and lives in Buffalo, N. Y.; Josephine, married William Tennant of Saginaw, Mich.

Children of Washington and Hannah (Curtis) Mowry, two sons dying in infancy:

Almira, died April —, 1827; married about 1826, Sylvanus Root. Child: George W., married (1) Harriet Bowers; married (2) Mary J. Jacobs.

Lydia, born February 26, 1810; died November 13,

1888; married May 5, 1836, Nicholas Walker of Oxford. Children: Frances E., born July 15, 1842; married James Murray, a native of Scotland, and resides on the old homestead. Washington, born February 27, 1846; died March 20, 1851. Austin G., born May 21, 1849; died July 14, 1895; married Betsey Dent of Greene.

George W., born April 24, 1806; died suddenly August 17, 1885, in Oxford; married January 5, 1832, Polly Root of Oxford, born April 20, 1802; died August 4, 1886. Children: Bertha Almira, died in infancy ; Henry A., born October 30, 1834; married Emeretta Hutchison; Van-Buren, born December 27, 1839; died November 23, 1890; married Sarah A. Wheeler.

Phila, born January 10, 1812; died April 5, 1897; married Elisha Dickinson.

Solomon C., born February 11, 1814; died January 26, 1886; married December 15, 1836, Abigail C. Havens. Children: Sarah M., died in infancy; Whitman R., married Sarah P. Wheeler; Charles L., married Augusta A. Brewer; Sarah C., died March 18, 1849; Curtis S., married Alice L. Root.

Andrew, born August 4, 1816; died November 7, 1900; married February 27, 1840, Hannah Carhart of Oxford. Children: Lydia M., died in infancy; Narcissa A., married February 26, 1862, Julius Wheeler; Andrew F., died November 16, 1897, married September 27, 1869, Jane Bloomer; Phila A., married June —, 1868, Adelbert Seeley; Washington E., married October —, 1882, Emma Lewis.

Wilson G., born ———, 1824; died June 7, 1888, in Troupsburg, N. Y.; married Lucy A. Greene.

Zeruah, born ———, 1820; died August 19, 1884, in Coventry, N. Y.; married William Walker.

God's finger touched him and he slept.
—TENNYSON.

Ray Clarke.

Ray Clarke, who lived on what is now the Cone farm, was born February 13, 1782, at Newport, R. I., and died in 1847 at South Oxford. He married Celia Greene of Warwick, R. I., born January 10, 1776; died August 9, 1829, at East Greenwich, R. I. In 1825, when traveling in Tennessee, he was overtaken by a heavy storm in the Cumberland Mountains and exposed all night to its fury. This brought on an attack of brain fever, from which he never fully recovered. Among his children were:

CECELIA GREENE CLARKE, born in 1808; died in 1880; married Judge George A. Brayton, Chief Justice Rhode Island Supreme Court for thirty-one years.

ETHAN RAY CLARKE, born January 10, 1818, at Potowomut, R. I.; married October 29, 1840, Mary E. Millard of Warwick, R. I. He was educated at Jamaica Plains, Mass., and inherited property from his grandfather, including a farm in this town. He removed to Oxford in 1840 after his marriage, and entered the ministry in 1851, becoming pastor of the Free Will Baptist church in the east part of the town. He removed to Genesee county in 1856, and, during the Civil war, went as Chaplain of the 1st R. I. Cavalry, and then later the 25th N. Y. Cavalry, serving until 1865. In 1866 he returned to Oxford and remained until 1870, when he removed to Michigan. Children:

SUSAN CELIA, born in Oxford; married Wm. E. Marwin of Jersey City.

Anna Augusta, born in Oxford; married James P. Boyd of Chicago.

Isabella Emily, born in Oxford; died April 25, 1888; married Arthur M. Mayhew.

Mary Elizabeth, born at Oxford; married William J. Rose.

Jessie, born October 19, 1849, in Oxford; died November 8, 1864, at Buffalo.

George Brayton, married Florence J. Holley; residence, Vernon, Mich.

Ray, born January 13, 1855, in Oxford; died January 6, 1865, at Buffalo.

Ward Greene, born January 2, 1859, at Stafford, N. Y. A physician and professor of dental surgery in Rush University, Chicago.

His life was gentle; and the elements
So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up,
And say to all the world, This was a man!
—Shakespeare.

Amos A. Franklin.

Amos A. Franklin was born in Stonington, Conn., June 27, 1785. He learned the trade of cabinet maker in New London, Conn., and came to Oxford in 1808, where he was active in advancing the interests both of religion and education. He fitted up the upper story of his cabinet shop to make a comfortable place for holding meetings, instituted a flourishing Sunday school, of which he was for many years superintendent. In the long intervals when the Presbyterian church was without a pastor,

being too poor to afford continuous support, with the assistance of other members of the church he held meetings, which were well attended, reading some well selected sermon. He was for many years a trustee of Oxford Academy. In company with James A. Glover he established in 1829 the Oxford foundry. Mr. Franklin was a member of the State legislature in 1829, was a participator in getting the Chenango canal, at that time considered of great importance to the prosperity of the town, and was one of the special commissioners sent to Albany to look after its success. He was a magistrate in Oxford for about twenty years, and sheriff of the county one term. In 1847 he moved to Wisconsin and assisted in building up a church in his new home, of which he was ten years a deacon. He died April 14, 1858, in Patch Grove, Wis. He married (1) in October, 1809, Anne Howe of Springfield, Vt., who died July 12, 1811, aged 21 years. Married (2) in January, 1814, Minerva, daughter of Anson Cary, whose death occurred May 23, 1859, in Patch Grove, Wis.

Child by first wife:

STEPHEN.

Children by second wife:

HANNAH, married Anson Cary, 2d.

MINERVA, married Rev. Samuel H. Stevenson, died January 27, 1872, in Gilman, Ill.

ANNA.

SARAH.

MARY.

RICHARD.

AMOS.

EDWARD.

BENJAMIN, died October 23, 1843, in Wisconsin, aged 18.

They are soldiers.
Witty, courteous, liberal, full of spirit.
—SHAKESPEARE.

Sherwood Family.

Asa T. Sherwood was baptized in Greens Farms, Conn., July 4, 1762; died in Guilford, N. Y., June 18, 1834, where he settled when it was a part of Oxford; married Mary Phillips. He was one of those small Connecticut boys who went into the Revolutionary army as soon as he could hold a gun and served seven years. His brothers and sisters, some of whom settled in this section, were: Levi, Elen, Isaac, Abigail, John and Hezekiah, twins, and Hannah. His children were: Isaac, David, William, Asa, Phœbe, Gorham, Sally, and John.

William Sherwood, third child of Asa T. and Mary (Philips) Sherwood, was born June 2, 1793, in Greens Farms, Conn.; died May 9, 1875, in Norwich, N. Y.; married Abigail Smith, of Oxford, born September 18, 1800; died August 21, 1850. William Sherwood served in the War of 1812 and was with General Scott at Sackett's Harbor.

Children, all born in Guilford, N. Y.:

JAMES W., 1st, born May 5, 1818; died July 20, 1820, in Guilford.

DAVID L., born September 25, 1819; died suddenly November 8, 1891, in Oxford; married Susan C. Peabody, died September 22, 1897, in Oxford. Children: Charles W., married Anna Estabrook; Frederick, married Hattie Judd; Emogene, died in Utica, unmarried; Ida, married Charles B. Eaton, died in Tacoma, Wash.; Abigail.

Charles S., born February 7, 1822; died August 21, 1900, in Lebanon, Ill.; married Mary J. Riley.

Nehemiah, born June 22, 1824; died May 21, 1893, in Greene; married Lucy A. Rice, died June 12, 1899, in Greene.

Sophrona A., born April 9, 1827; died November 12, 1896, in Norwich, unmarried.

Nancy Eliza, born March 29, 1829; married James H. Allen, born in 1822; died February 10, 1898, in Frankfort, N. Y.

Edmund T., born February 10, 1831; died October 3, 1895, in Norwich, unmarried.

Eugene, born June 18, 1834; married Susan Whitamore and resides in Binghamton. Served three years in Civil war.

James W., born February 7, 1837; married Cordelia T. Judson, and resides in Oxford. Served three years in Civil war.

Susan C., born October 7, 1839; unmarried. Resides in Norwich.

The descent of James W. Sherwood of Oxford from Thomas Sherwood, who came to America from Ipswich, England, in 1634, is as follows: I. Thomas, II. Isaac, III. Thomas, died August 5, 1756, in Albany, N. Y., where he was in Capt. Whiting's company in the campaign of 1756; IV. John, V. Asa, VI. William, VII. James W.

The descent of Asa T. Sherwood, on the maternal side, is, I. John Howland, born in 1593 in England. By first wife, said to be a daughter of Gov. Carver, he had a daughter II. Desire. John Howland was a prominent man in the Plymouth Colony; was governor's assistant, etc., and is named among the first in the list of Mayflower passengers. Desire, born in 1623, in Plymouth, married Capt. John Gorham, who was a great soldier, and lost

his life from disease contracted when fighting the Narragansett Indians. There are several towns named Gorham for him, and Gorham, Maine, has a monument erected to him. He and Desire had III. Jebez, born August 3, 1656, in Barnstable, Mass., who married Hannah (Sturges) Gray, and they had a son IV. Joseph, born August 22, 1692. Joseph married Deborah Barlow, and had V. Mary, who married John Sherwood, and they were the parents of VI. Asa T. Sherwood.

Offering to carry weary traveller
His orient liquor, in a crystal glass.
—MILTON.

Andrew Achorn.

Andrew Achorn, who had been one of England's "Hessian hirelings," in the war of the Revolution, but who, after being captured with Burgoyne's army, came to know and love the American people, whom, he said, he had been taught to believe were all savages. At the close of the war many of these soldiers remained and settled in the country they had fought against. Achron drifted into South Oxford, where he lived to a good old age, well preserved in the whisky of that day. He was a good mechanic and farmer, and had a large orchard and cider mill which flowed large quantities of cider. It was a place for the tramping Indians and a resort for Abe Antone and his band when they went into that neighborhood to hunt. Achron was a gunsmith, having learned the trade in Germany, and did a good business by repairing guns and making steel traps for the Indians. He and Antone were fast friends. When Antone was in hiding, after murdering John Jacobs in Madison county, it was Achorn who secreted and sheltered him until the search in this section was over.

The sun was set; the night came on apace,
And falling dews bewet around the place.
The bat takes airy rounds on leathern wings,
And the hoarse owl his woeful dirges sings.

—GAY.

Wheeler Family.

Of the early history of Hezekiah Wheeler, from whom the whole Wheeler family in this vicinity is descended, little is known. He was probably born and raised in the vicinity of Gloucester, R. I., and spent his youthful days there. He was born about the year 1749 or '50, and was married to Mary Wood about 1773. Soon after his marriage he enlisted in the Patriot army of the Revolution as a minute man, like every other able-bodied man of that day who was not enrolled in the regular army. The minute men were permitted to remain at home, but were liable to be called out in an emergency on short notice when an invasion took place or when army stores and supplies were to be guarded. At the close of the war Mr. Wheeler settled down on a farm in Gloucester, where, in connection with his farm, he conducted a hotel, which, being on the public highway leading from Gloucester to Providence, and being withal a genial landlord and a popular man, he soon amassed a fair competence.

On the 8th of October, 1813, Mr. Wheeler came to Oxford, where some of the family had already preceded him. During this year he had had a protracted illness which nearly cost him his life, but on the 27th of September his health having improved, he with his wife, and Nicholas Smith, wife and child, started on the long and tedious journey to join their friends in the then famous "Che-

nango county." Their progress, necessarily slow, was a part of that general trend of New England blood toward the setting sun, which so markedly characterized the early part and middle of the last century, and took place at the time when it was going "out west" to go into New York State.

Their friends became very much alarmed and anxious at their failure to arrive on the day expected, and, on October 8, Nehemiah Wheeler and Arnold Phetteplace started out to find trace of them. Passing through Rockdale, Mt. Upton, up the Butternut creek, and through Gilbertsville, without any tidings, they continued the search until near Morris the travelers were discovered slowly approaching. After joyful greeting had been exchanged the journey toward their destination was resumed which would consume many hours. Night fell, the wolves howled, and terror began to exert its sway as they passed beneath hemlock trees whose heavy boughs overhung their path. Late in the evening they reached their journey's end, the log house of Eddy Phetteplace, the husband of their daughter Anna, where a warm fire of crackling logs and a warmer greeting introduced them to their western home.

The farm where Mr. Wheeler located is now owned by Nelson Turner. During the fall of 1827 it became evident that his earthly pilgrimage was drawing to a close, and that he with his companion of so many years were soon to be numbered with the departed. On January 8, 1828, his spirit took its flight into the great unknown. Mrs. Wheeler was too ill to be informed of her husband's death, and on the following day, after an interval of twenty-seven hours, their spirits were reunited. They were both buried in one grave at the Gospel Hill cemetery in Guilford. Children:

Hezekiah, born November 5, 1775; died February 26, 1779.

Mary, born September 10, 1777, in Gloucester, R. I.; died January 7, 1863, in Providence, R. I.; married Oliver Wade of Gloucester, R. I., born June 4, 1773; died May 8, 1853, in Providence, R. I. Children: Susan, born April 4, 1795; died January 16, 1882; married Asaph Smith. Wheeler, born October 2, 1796; died June 22, 1809. Nancy, born May 1, 1800; died July 8, 1887. Deborah, born December 25, 1804; died January 16, 1884. Sarah B., born February 21, 1807; died May 11, 1880. Violetta, born May 8, 1808; died October 23, 1893. Nathaniel, born April 19, 1811; died September 20, 1841. Mary M., born July 19, 1813; died November 27, 1902. Paris, born January 19, 1816; died March 28, 1854. Serrie, born November 28, 1821; died October 19, 1872.

Anna, born December 17, 1779, in Gloucester, R. I.; died October 10, 1859, in Springfield, Pa.; married April 20, 1796, Eddy Phetteplace of Gloucester, R. I., born February 29, 1776, in Gloucester; died August 15, 1861, in Springfield, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Phetteplace settled in Oxford in 1811, but in April, 1813, the town of Guilford, then called Eastern, was set off from Oxford, which made them residents of Guilford. Children: Arnold, born June 8, 1798; died in Sabona, Ill. Mary, born August 31, 1800; died August 10, 1871, in Wisconsin. Isaac, born April 27, 1802; died May 12, 1815. Minerva, born November 18, 1804; died December 31, 1841, in Oxford. Eddy W., born April 21, 1808; died about 1898 in Jamestown, N. Y. David T., born February 13, 1800; died February 18, 1868, in Wisconsin. Hezekiah, born July 11, 1812; died May 20, 1891, in Chautauqua, N. Y. Anne, born May 16, 1815; died May 8, 1892, in Wisconsin. William, born January 4, 1818; died November 23, 1883, in Michigan. Eli, born June 6,

1821; died June 29, 1865, in the army. John, born July 18, 1823.

Henry, born February 26, 1782, in Gloucester, R. I.; died October 24, 1855. Married Naomi Phillips, born June 10, 1784; died March 9, 1874. Children: Nehemiah, born July 23, 1802; died June 29, 1872; married Fanny Burlison; (children, Lee, Hezekiah, Nathan, Willis, Peter, Nehemiah, Minerva, Lily.) Thomas, born December 13, 1803; died June 4, 1875; married (1) Alma Stead; married (2) Charity, widow of Stephen Stead; (child by first wife, Angel S.). Jeremiah, born December 21, 1805; died May 11, 1864; married Almira Brown; (children, Orrin, Andrew, John, George, Eddy, Elizabeth). Anna, born November 26, 1807; died February 22, 1839; married Gardner Wade. Hezekiah, born December 4, 1809; died March 29, 1816. Henry, born November 18, 1811; died May 14, 1902; married (1) Miranda Shapley; married (2) Emma Lamb; (children by first wife, Maria, married Devillo Hallett; David, married Janette Knight; Julius, married Narcissa Mowry; Thomas, married Lydia E. Dickinson; Sarah, married VanBuren Mowry. (Child by second wife, Julia M., married George Hovey). Naomi, born February 1, 1814; died June 7, 1901; married John Shapley; (children, Martha, Hannah). Luke, born January 27, 1816; died January 23, 1860; married (1) Sarah Evans; married (2) Pamelia Gray; married (3) Mary Ann Gray; (children by second wife, Jirah, married Janette Smith; Sarah, married Whitman Mowry; Gerritt, married Hattie Hovey). Rufus, born April 2, 1818; died July 27, 1896, in Whitney Point; married Elizabeth Willcox; (children, Nancy, married Abram Coxe; Priscilla, married (1) Silas Rogers; married (2) Samuel Rounds; John P., married (1) Lottie Smith; married (2) Mrs. Carrie Cline; Mertie died young). Mary, born February 27, 1820; died April 28,

1888; married Reuben Pearsall; (child, Edgar A., married Marietta Moon). Philip, born July 31, 1823; died October 11, 1878; married Lavina Scott; (children, Anna, married Joseph Baker; Randall, married Marilla Stead). Nancy, born January 16, 1827; died October 28, 1839.

Susanna, born October 17, 1786, in Gloucester, R. I.; died August 19, 1858, in Guilford, N. Y.; married Nicholas Smith, son of Perigrine Smith of Gloucester, R. I.; came to Oxford October 8, 1813. Children: Mary, born December 29, 1811, in Rhode Island; died August 3, 1891, in Pennsylvania. Susan, born December 31, 1813, in Oxford; died December 31, 1847, in Guilford. Isaac P., born November 18, 1815, in Oxford; died May 25, 1875, in Pennsylvania. George, born December 18, 1817, in Oxford; died February 3, 1848, in Guilford. James W., born March 1, 1820, in Oxford; now resides in Bainbridge. Miranda, born November 16, 1822, in Oxford; died February —, 1825, in Oxford. William H., born April 6, 1827, in Oxford; died January 31, 1899, in Guilford. Elvira O., born September 8, 1830, in Guilford.

The introduction of noble inventions seems to hold by far the most excellent place among human actions.—Bacon.

The Chenango Foundry.

The Oxford Foundry was established in April, 1829, as the Chenango Foundry, by Amos A. Franklin and James A. Glover. They introduced the first steam engine into this town, and were the first establishment of the kind west of the Hudson river to use steam power. They carried on the business a few years, when Levi Chubbuck and Erastus Miller became associated with Mr. Franklin. The business was continued a short time under the name of A. Franklin

& Co., when E. P. Willcox became a partner and the firm name was changed to Franklin, Willcox & Co., who operated it three years. Messrs. Franklin and Miller then withdrew, and the remaining partners continued under the name of Chubbuck & Willcox. On the 28th of August, 1846, the foundry, then owned and occupied by E. P. Willcox, took fire and, with the plow shop and wareroom attached, was entirely consumed. Only a portion of the plows, stoves, etc., were saved. The loss was several thousand dollars. The shop was rebuilt and Mr. Willcox continued the business in connection with a hardware store till March, 1859, when he sold to George Rector and Eli Willcox, who, on the 29th of October, 1860, dissolved partnership, Mr. Rector purchasing the entire interest of Mr. Willcox. In January, 1868, Mr. Rector disposed of the foundry to James M. Edwards, and the hardware store to Messrs. Raymond & Miller. Mr. Edwards did a general machine and foundry business till November 23, 1883, when early on that morning the foundry, together with all the machinery, patterns, etc., was again destroyed by fire, nothing being saved. Loss about $5000, with an insurance of $2500. The wood shop was saved. The foundry has never been rebuilt. The building was constructed of stone and was about 40 by 62 feet, two stories high, and stood upon the same foundation as the one burned in 1846, which was only one story high.

THE ONEIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held in this village in August, 1842, and nearly 200 ministers were in attendance. Bishop Hedding was present and presided with ease, dignity, and dispatch. On Sunday, during the conference, ten elders and seventeen deacons were ordained.

In life there are meetings which seem
Like a fate.

—Owen Meredith.

Jacobs Family.

Cornelius Jacobs, born in 1720 in Holland, came to America at a very early age with his parents. In the same vessel that brought them over was a family from France, whose name is now lost to history. This French family had a daughter nearly the age of Cornelius. On landing in New York the two families traveled together to a point in Dutchess county, N. Y. The infants were placed in baskets, slung over the back of a horse and thus made the journey to their new home in America. In later years they again met, renewed their acquaintance and married. Mr. Jacobs died January 22, 1805, in Dutchess county. Their children were: Lewis, who went to Vermont at an early day and became lost to the family. Israel, born in 1744, lived most of his life in Westchester county; at an advanced age he came to Oxford to reside with his nephew, who was his namesake, and died July 23, 1832, unmarried. Cornelius, Jr., born May 19, 1754, in Westchester county; died April 18, 1811, in Durham, Greene county, N. Y.; further mention of Cornelius, Jr., is made below.

One incident is related in regard to Cornelius, Sr. He was accustomed to say grace at the table in the most reverent manner. One day during the ceremony the family cat took a notion to sharpen her claws upon his leg. Dressed in his knee breeches and long thin stockings, it proved a very severe experience, and the well-known formulary could scarcely be finished, when he shouted in great wrath, "Rabbit the cat!"

Cornelius Jacobs, Jr., married about 1784 Elizabeth Lyon at North Castle, Westchester county, N. Y., born July 8, 1764; died September 27, 1848, in Oxford. She was a girl of twelve years when General Howe gained possession of New York. Cornelius was in the Revolutionary war, having enlisted at its commencement and serving to the end. He was one of the body guard of General Washington, and as he was a light man and a bold rider, was employed in carrying dispatches. The service required skill in horsemanship, tact, daring, integrity, and great power of endurance. During the entire war he held this position, a perilous and arduous one that took him much of the time from camp, and during the seven years was never in a battle. At the close of the war he was paid in Continental money, nearly worthless, and went back to begin life in empty handed poverty at 35 years of age. In April, 1811, Mr. Jacobs found himself with a large family struggling with poverty and anxious for the future. Finally it was decided that they leave Dutchess county, where they were residing, and start for the west and locate in the "Chenango country." Accordingly he started on horseback, leaving his wife to pack the household goods and stow them away so that an incoming tenant could have the house. The Catskill turnpike had been opened a few years previous, a thoroughfare of great interest to the people of the Hudson valley. Over this Mr. Jacobs traveled and in the course of a few days arrived at the home of his brother-in-law, David Lyon, who had located above Oxford in 1792, on the brook now known by his name. The only place he could find for his family was a part of a log cabin in the woods a few rods east of what was so long known as the VanDerLyn farm in South Oxford. After a few days he started on the return trip for his family, who were waiting in suspense, and when in the

town of Durham, about thirty-five miles from home, he became seriously ill. After lingering between hope and fear, striving in the meantime to get word to his wife, he died before she could reach him. Here began the struggle of a heroic woman and mother, whose strong character appears in bold relief, shining out from the early history of the town. She had nothing to do but return and face the rayless night that had settled upon her surroundings. The widow of one week with the assistance of two sons, aged 17 and 15, turned her face toward Oxford. The children and goods were put into two wagons and the journey commenced in the last week of April, 1811. Six days were consumed in their pilgrimage, that is now compassed in about as many hours. Reaching Oxford, the children and goods were placed in the rude cabin, which soon became home with all its sacred attachments. After a struggle of two years they were forced to move into another log house in the vicinity of the river bridge at South Oxford, working the land on shares for a year. The family then moved on to the Roswell Enos farm, one mile above the village, where toil and economy brought more of the comforts of home and more experience to the boys. Their father had at the close of the war drawn a "soldier's right" of 160 acres, situated near Auburn, N. Y., but thought it of very little value and sold it for a horse, saddle, and bridle. Thus throwing away a golden opportunity.

In a short time his sons were old enough to go into the woods in "the Deserts," and then and there commenced a struggle for a home, clearing the land, purchasing the title and living at the same time. But few can realize the hard times experienced by the pioneers following the war of 1812. The year 1816 was called the year without a summer. The year following was nearly as bad. Mrs. Jacobs and her family were near the famine state and at the same

time endeavoring to pay for land at $5.50 per acre. But perseverance and sturdy hearts won the battle and homes for the children, some of whom had grown into rugged men and women.

Children of Cornelius and Elizabeth (Lyon) Jacobs:

MARY, born June 25, 1786; died April 10, 1879; married May 25, 1811, Stephen Lake, born June 20, 1786; died November 12, 1857.

SUSAN, born November 22, 1788; died March 1, 1852; married Eber Isbell.

ISRAEL, born April 26, 1791; died July 29, 1857; married (1) in 1810 Jane Anderson, born February 3, 1787; died April 19, 1848; married (2) June 11, 1849, Mrs. Julia Kinney, born January 5, 1813; died February 1, 1881.

THOMAS, born October 13, 1793; died February 18, 1875; married October 6, 1816, Phebe A. Stratton, born July 17, 1798; died February 15, 1883. Children: Alfred S., born December 8, 1817; married Laura Holladay; (children, Amanda, died in infancy; Luancy H., married John H. Gifford; Alvine, married Alice H. Sweet; Alice, married T. G. Stanton; Charles H., married Lucina E. Sweet; Agnes A., married Thomas J. Root). Susan Ann, born April 1, 1820, married George Davidson. Thomas H., born July 21, 1822; married Nancy Holladay; (children, Francis H., married DeEtta Rathbone; John P., married Louisa Rathbone). Alvin, died in infancy. Harriet C., born December 25, 1825; married Laman Pearsall. Peter G., born June 22, 1828; married Caroline Ferris; (children, Carrie L., married William T. Kelsey; William K., married Mrs. Ella Graves Edwards; Mary F., married Asa P. Hyde. Harriet C.). Austin, died in childhood. Darwin, born September 19, 1833; married Tamer E. Wessels; (child, Albert J.). James A., born November 13, 1835; died November 24, 1856; unmarried.

Cornelius, born February 28, 1796; died December 21, 1872; married November 13, 1824, Ann Baldwin, born December 21, 1801; died November 26, 1867. Children: John, born August 16, 1825; married Catherine Healy. Daniel B., born October 28, 1827; married Jerusha A. Hinman. Israel, born September 22, 1831; married Sarah E. Hull. James E., born August 5, 1836; married Catherine Norris.

William G., born May 28, 1798; died in infancy.

Eliza Ann, born January 28, 1800; died July 24, 1885; married January 1, 1817, William Stratton, born August 13, 1795; died January 7, 1879.

William Lyon, born July 21, 1802; died April 6, 1876; married Phila Gifford, born November 17, 1807; died October 13, 1886. Children: Jane E., married Henry Race. Three children died in infancy.

George Alvin, born January 22, 1805; died May 27, 1848; married January 31, 1830, Elnora Adams, died July 18, 1880. Children: Susan, Jane A., Vashti, George.

James H., born May 1, 1807; died June 23, 1884; married November, 1833, Sarah Miller, born July 31, 1813; died February 27, 1905. Children: Zeruah E., born August 2, 1834. Mary J., born November 18, 1836. Israel P., born May 25, 1839; married (1) Lisetna DeF. Brazee; married (2) Emma Hayward. S. Elexey, born May 30, 1841; married N. D. Bartle. James, born May 21, 1843; married Sarah J. Bunnel. Ann B., born May 22, 1847; married Wheaton Race.

Edwin T., born January 16, 1809; died August 1, 1889, at Pitcher, N. Y.; married (1) September 23, 1832, Mary Ann Noble, born November 23, 1811; died June 19, 1881; married (2) March 28, 1888, Mrs. Martha L. Darrance. Children by first wife: Infant son; Ira D., in Civil war

and died September 19, 1863, at Folly Island, S. C.; Edwin T, Jr.

Edwin T. Jacobs was for many years a prominent Baptist minister and well known in this section of the State. In an article prepared for the writer in 1888 he stated:

From the Indian trail to the iron rail; from the pine knot blaze to the electric light; from the trammel and crane to the kitchen range; from the saddle to the Pulman car; from the power of muscle to the power of steam. These are notches on the tall stick of time. Measured by epochs of by-gone ages they seem but the brief steps of childhood, but taking the vast changes and wonderful progress in human events, they seem like the tread of a giant. The hardy woodman and his family found that suffering and progress were inseparable, that self-denial is the price of everything valuable in human attainment, and that labor is the force that wins.

How well I remember the old round table turned up against the wall. We looked forward very impatiently to the time when it was drawn out, turned down and a pin inserted to keep it in place. Then the tin basins were placed in a circle to the number corresponding with the hungry mouths, and filled with milk if there was enough, if not the balance was supplied with water. Mother was a very practical woman with a vast amount of inventive genius. Young ladies and gentlemen, these are the days of fine arts, but the coarser arts were studied then in the hard school of necessity.

At that time there were no schools as at present and no church privileges, nor a church edifice in the county. A road was cut through the woods east from Coventry station, and it was a saying that Sunday only went up as far on that road as a certain rock, all beyond was no Sunday. But

> The groves were God's first temples. Ere men learned
> To hew the shaft, and lay the archtrave,
> And spread the roof above them.

The writer has often attended services in a barn and sat "up gallery" on the scaffold or on the hay mow, the only cushioned seats, and watched the old white-haired minister as he waded through his sermon of an hour and a half, pausing when half through to take a pinch of snuff. Conventional rules were dispensed with, and so was his coat in very warm weather. But the question of bread could not be dispensed with, though broadcloth and brass buttons might. There is nothing like a boy's appetite except it is a girl's. After bread came clothing. Richard Arckwright had taught the world the art of spinning by machinery, but in the backwoods of America every yard of cloth needed for clothing was the product of home manufacture. The little wheel, the big wheel, the distaff and reel, and the old loom in the corner were always called into requisition. No power loom had then been invented, but behind these rude implements of domestic art was the power of a mother's love. The hands that held the distaff, turned the wheel and pressed the lathe never struck for wages. I wish some artist could reconstruct that old kitchen with the trammel and lug-pole, the bake-kettle on the hearth, the frying pan held by its long handle over the blazing fire, and a lot of hungry boys and girls waiting for

the Indian loaf or flapjacks. The artist must not omit the "old wooden rocker." Then in that relic of the by-gone days, clasped in the loving arms and pressed to the warm heart of that best of mothers, my childish tears have often been dried and the rough passages of life made smooth.

The only question about clothing was where to find the wool and flax. Sheep are not found in the wilderness, though wolves may be, and it was sought among the older farmers on the river, then worked up "at the halves," making the labor double. How well I remember my first jacket and trousers. They were made of green flannel, and how anxiously the process of making was watched. At last they were finished and submitted to the inspection of the household. The next Sunday morning was bright and beautiful. Invested in the suit I was a boy enlarged, elongated, bifurcated! Life and the nineteenth century were opening grandly. But a change came over the spirit of my dreams and the first great downfall of my life awaited me—I fell into the slop pail. And now to see that new suit, the pride of the household, and the triumph of a mother's skill, drawn out of the ruins with the remains of a boy in it. Do you wonder that after almost 80 years it is called to mind. It was the first thing I do remember, and the last thing to be forgotten.

He stands erect; his slouch becomes a walk,
He steps right onward, martial is his air,
His form and movement.

—COWPER.

Bliss Willoughby.

Bliss Willoughby, son of Joseph and Bridget (Wickwier) Willoughby, was born in New London county, Conn., February 22, 1767. When sixteen years of age he enlisted in the Revolutionary army, and served the last six months of the war. While in service he marched three days without food, and the last night, coming to a place where cattle had been slaughtered, found a paunch, which he emptied and washed in a nearby creek, and with five companions ate it with a keen relish. When he laid down to rest he slept soundly through the night, and awoke in the morning to find himself half under water, a heavy rain having

set in. Mr. Willoughby was not in any general battle, but while on a march came to a place where the British were burning buildings, who hastily took to their boats, but before they could get out of gun shot distance he saw many of them fall into the water. After being discharged and paid off he started for home, finding that it took $30 of Continental money to buy a meal of victuals. He had but little schooling, only three months in two winters. He lived on a farm in Westchester county for a short time, when he moved to the farm now owned by Griffin Bros., in Preston, February 23, 1800, where he had bought 600 acres of land. He was on the road eighteen days, finding the snow four feet deep in the forests. Here he remained till after the war of 1812, when he was forced to leave, being unable to make payments. He then lived a few years on the farm now owned by Lazarus Gallagher, and then bought the place, now known as the Willoughby farm, on the road from Oxford to Guilford, where he lived until his death, which occurred May 31, 1849. He married April 20, 1791, Fanny Patton, born January 10, 1768; died February 7, 1815. Children:

Nancy, born April 25, 1792; married in Preston James Ashcraft of Connecticut.

David P., born in Mottville, Conn., April 20, 1794; died February 21, 1883; married in 1818 Charlotte McNeil of Oxford, who died December 29, 1891, aged 93. Soon after their marriage they moved into the south part of the town, settling upon a farm which they cleared and lived upon over forty years. In 1862 they removed to the west side of the river in South Oxford to reside with their son. They united with the Oxford and Greene Baptist church in 1837, and for a period of sixty-five years enjoyed married life. Children: John Bliss, married Mary Ann Race; (children, Marcia, married David Bartle; Rector, married

Rosalia Stratton; Chester, married Emma Stratton). Sarah Maria, died April 29, 1906, in Binghamton; married Albert Jewell.

Levi C., born March 9, 1796; married Nancy Black; lived and died in Ohio.

Margaret P., born February 4, 1799; died January 13, 1815.

John B., born January 16, 1802; died May 23, 1885; married May 3, 1829, Nancy Shapley, born in 1806; died October 19, 1897. They resided on the homestead farm during the remainder of their lives. Children: Francis E., married Janette E. Root; residence, Rockford, Ill. William D., born February 10, 1833; married September 18, 1861, Lucy E. Willcox of Preston; until 1889 he resided on the homestead, when he moved in the village. John H., born in 1842; died in 1891; married L. Louise Woodruff.

Eliza P., born August 17, 1804; married Samuel Eddy.

Lucetta, born June 24, 1807, in Preston, N. Y.; married February 21, 1836, George N. Havens of Oxford.

William D., born January 2, 1811; died April 11, 1832, in Oxford; unmarried.

I shall show the cinders of my spirits
Through the ashes of my chance.
—Shakespeare.

Ira Willcox.

Ira Willcox was born in Durham, Greene county, N. Y., August 22, 1788. He commenced business in the county of his birth, where he resided till 1812, when he removed to Norwich, and soon after made his home in Oxford, where he lived, until his death, thirty-nine years. On coming to this village he opened a store in the vicinity of Washington

park. In 1833 he built the brick block on Fort Hill, continuing the mercantile business until 1840, when he retired. Mr. Willcox was a member of Assembly from this county in 1831, and in 1830 was elected president of the Bank of Chenango in Norwich, which place he continued to fill while he lived. He was a large, fine looking man, weighing 200 or more pounds; of strong mind, great energy of character and of persevering industry. These qualities soon enabled their possessor to acquire a fortune. Mr. Willcox, while on a southern trip, died at Jacksonville, Florida, November 29, 1852, aged 64. He married Rachel Austin September 22, 1813, who was born at Durham, N. Y., September 22, 1793, and died at Oxford July 31, 1817. On February 20, 1819, he married Lucy Willcox, who was born at Chatham, Conn., October 28, 1793, and died at Oxford January 22, 1873, aged 79, after suffering from consumption for a quarter of a century. His children were:

Chauncey A., who died at Oxford September 14, 1817.

Mary Elizabeth, a gifted and cultured young lady, who only reached the age of 19, dying on July 31, 1838.

Ann Augusta, for many years prominent in religious and social life, of a most friendly and generous spirit. Her last years were fraught with disease and suffering; she died at Philadelphia November 8, 1885, aged 70 years. She married Nathan B. Willcox February 10, 1842, who died at Whitesboro, N. Y., February 7, 1854. Two daughters survive: Mrs. Theresa B., Zueliz, and Mrs. Charlotte Combs of Philadelphia.

Ira Willcox's store on Fort Hill was the principal one in the town, and he had an ashery on one of the streets leading to the Lackawanna station. At that day Chenango county was new and cleared lands scarce, except along the river. He purchased large quantities of ashes gathered from the fallows at six cents per bushel, put them into

leaches, made lye and boiled it down to black salts, transporting them to Catskill, from there by sloops to New York, where they were sold and the proceeds returned in goods to his store. After a time he built ovens and pearled the salts into pearl ash, which lessened the weight and increased the value. Farmers from around the country would drive wagons loaded with salts, pearl ash, etc., to Catskill, taking a week to make the round trip. They returned with all kinds of merchandise. For two years Mr. Willcox purchased large quantities of oats at fifteen to eighteen cents a bushel, potatoes at twelve cents a bushel, and butter at six cents a pound, loaded them in arks, constructed of rough planks put together tightly, made on the bank of the river near the store, and when the spring freshets came floated down the perilous tide to a southern market. The first year he had the good luck to pass safely down the rapid stream, but the second year he stove up in endeavoring to pass a bridge near Harrisburg and lost heavily, everything being washed down the river. This was the last of the ark business on the Chenango.

Our human laws are but the copies, more or less imperfect, of the eternal laws, so far as we can read them.

—FROUDE.

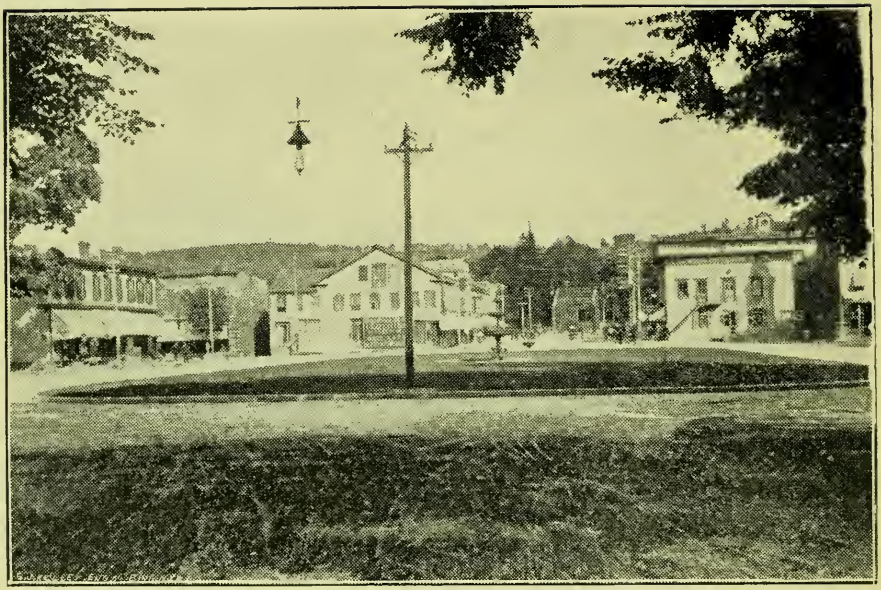
Village By-Laws in 1810.

The following extracts from the village by-laws are copied from the Chenango *Patriot* of September 11, 1810:

AT A MEETING

Of the Trustees of the Village of OXFORD, convened at the dwelling house of Erastus Perkins, innholder, in said Village, on the 6th day of September, 1810, *the following* BYE-LAWS *and* RESOLVES *were ordained and established.*

Sec. I. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF OXFORD, IN LEGAL MEETING CONVENED, That in addition to the officers particularly defignated by



LAFAYETTE SQUARE—Before trees were set out in the Park in 1905



FORT HILL MILL—Remodeled from structure erected shortly after 1800

the act of incorporation, there fhall be elected by the Truftees, when it fhall by them be thought expedient, a Vice-Prefident, a Secretary, and not lefs than two nor more than four officers, to be defignated by the name of Ediles. * * * The duty of the Ediles fhall be to execute all laws relating to the improvement of the ftreets, allies and fquares, all laws relating to nuifances, all laws relating to delinquencies under the fifth and fixth fections of the bye-laws, and fhall alfo be pound keepers.

Sec. II. BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, That all meetings of the Truftees hereafter to be had shall be warned by the Prefident, giving four hours perfonal notice, or three days public notice in writing, fet up on one of the pofts of the central arch of the bridge; and that all extraordinary meetings of the free-holders and inhabitants of faid village fhall be warnned by the Prefident, giving eight days like notice, or publifhing the fame in fome newfpaper printed within the village, giving not lefs than five nor more than eight days notice. * * *

Sec. IV. AND WHEREAS it is at all times convenient that the village location be marked with accuracy and diftinctnefs, to prevent ambiguity in reference to be made in any bye-law or refolve of the Board of Truftees touching the fame, BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED, That that part of the village fub-allotted and plotted by Doctor Jofiah Stephens, lying on the fouth-eaft fide of Chenango-river, a plan of which is appended to his truft deed executed to the Prefident and Directors of the Chenango Turnpike Road Company, fhall in the number of lots, the names of fquares and ftreets, be and the fame is hereby eftablifhed. That the ftreet running parallel with the Chenango river on the weft fide thereof, fhall for ever hereafter be known by the name of Water-ftreet; that the Public Square on the north-weft fide of the river, and between Water-ftreet and the river fhall forever hereafter be known by the name of Market-Square; that the ftreet running from Market-Square weft-north-wefterly, commonly known by the name of the State Road, be for ever hereafter called and diftinguifhed by the name of Cayuga ftreet.

Sec. V. Swine, geefe, and ducks fhall not be fuffered to go at large within the village, and if any fuch are found it fhall be the duty of the Ediles or any one of them, to caufe the fame to be impounded, and the Edile fo impounding the fame fhall immediately thereafter caufe a notification thereof to be fet up on one of the pofts of the central arch of the bridge. * * *

Sec. XI. AND WHEREAS it is important both to the convenience and fafety of the citizen, that no obftruction be interpofed to the fafe paffage over the Chenango-bridge in faid village, BE IT RESOLVED, That no individual or individuals fhall be fuffered at any time hereafter to ufe the faid bridge as a log way, or to lay or depofit thereon any log, logs, or timber of any kind. * * *

Sec. XII. BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, That as foon hereafter as the treafury fhall be in a fituation competent to difburfe the neceffary expenfe, and on the order of the Prefident, the Ediles fhall caufe Main-ftreet, from the houfe of Uri Tracy, efquire, to the bridge, Greene-ftreet, as far as the Academy, Academy-Square, Merchant's Row, Fort Hill Square, Market Square, Water-ftreet from the houfe of Anfon Cary, efquire, to the house now occupied by John B. Johnfon, and Cayuga-ftreet to the fchool-houfe, to be lined with lombardy populars or other ornamental trees.

Sec. XIV. WHEREAS ALSO, the firing of guns in the public ftreets and fquares of the village is a boyifh paftime, not unfrequently attended with great mifchiefs and hazard to the citizen, the fame is hereby prohibited. * * *

Sec. XIX. The foregoing bye-laws fhall be immeditely printed in the Chenango Patriot and fhall go into operation the firft day of October, one thoufand eight hundred and ten, and not before.

By order of the Trustees,
THOMAS BUTLER, PRESIDENT.

When I
. . sleep in dull cold marble,
.
Say, I taught thee.

—SHAKESPEARE.

David G. Barber.

David G. Barber, A. M., born February 19, 1817, in Fort Ann, N. Y.; died December 1, 1899, in Oxford; married September 22, 1841, Milicent E. Griswold of New Berlin, born August 9, 1819, died December 6, 1901, in Oxford.

Mr. Barber was born on a farm, but in early life developed a desire for an education, which was obtained in the district schools, at the old Academy at Hamilton, and at Oxford Academy, then under the charge of Prof. Merrit G. McKoon. He first taught in Litchfield, N. Y., and then in other district schools until he located at South New Berlin, where he taught a select school for several years. From there he went to Norwich and taught in the Academy, returning to South Berlin, and in 1859 took charge of Oxford Academy as principal, a position he held eleven years. No teacher in the long list of instructors in the Academy, the history of which covers more than

a century, ever had the love and respect that Prof. Barber commanded. He was gentle, kind, and patient, harsh words and forcible methods were unknown, and his school was a model of good order and earnest work on the part of his pupils. The Academy, during his principalship, enjoyed a successful season, and was largely attended. A large number of prominent business and professional men throughout the country, " my boys," as he was accustomed to call them, owe their success in life to the teachings and moral principals instilled into their minds by Prof. Barber of Oxford Academy. His mild, persuasive powers won that love and respect for him that can never be forgotten. In recognition of his successful work as an instructor Madison University, now Colgate, conferred upon him, in 1855 the honorary degree of Master of Arts. Years previous he was made a town superintendent of schools, an office now extinct, a position he held three years. In 1870 he was elected school commissioner for the second district of Chenango county on the Democrat ticket, and resigned the principalship of the Academy. He held the office for three successive terms, and conducted its affairs faithfully. On his retirement from official duties he lived a quiet life in his pleasant home just above the village, and died commanding the respect of the community. In accordance with his expressed wish a gold-headed cane, presented to him by his pupils while in the Academy, was placed in the casket and buried with him in Riverside cemetery.

Children:

Elizabeth Freelove, died in infancy.

Zorada, married Rev. Lewis Halsey; died January 2, 1900, in Phœnix, Ariz.

Caroline, married George S. Keyes.

Azalia, married William T. Coggshall.

Clock of the household, the sound of thy bell
Tells the hour, and to many 'tis all thou canst tell;
But to me thou canst preach with the tongue of a sage,
And whisper old tales from life's earliest page.
—Eliza Cook.

Benjamin Moore.

Benjamin Moore, born October 19, 1776, in Massachusetts; died April 16, 1846, in Oxford; married in 1801, Margaret Bell, born July 20, 1784, in the Parish of Andworth, Galloway, Scotland; died February 9, 1845, in Oxford.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore came to Oxford shortly after their marriage in 1801, while the country was yet wild and unbroken. They were obliged to follow "blazed" trees, and often were followed by a pack of howling wolves which they kept at a distance by carrying firebrands. Their early life was passed amid hardships and privations known to the pioneers of Chenango county, of which the present generation have no comprehension .

Children, all born in Oxford:

Elizabeth, born July 29, 1802; died March 5, 1877; married Thomas Root.

John, born in 1805; died September 2, 1880; married June 5, 1834, Mary Ann Dodge, whose death occurred December 17, 1889. He was familiarly known as Capt. John Moore, receiving his title from being captain in the local militia. He was a man of remarkable business judgment, having accumulated what was considered in his day a large fortune. Children: Helen L., born October 5, 1835, died April 28, 1874, unmarried; George L., born June 17, 1840, died April 6, 1887, married February 22, 1881,

Carrie Darling of Guilford; Margaret Augusta, born January 2, 1851, died in childhood.

WILLIAM, born January 30, 1808; died in infancy.

BENJAMIN W., born June 8, 1813; died in infancy.

CHARLES B., born February 2, 1814; died suddenly September 19, 1896, on the farm upon which he was born, now occupied by his son. Married October 28, 1841, Harriet N. Dodge, whose death occurred April 21, 1886. Mr. Moore held several town offices creditably and with ability, though he never sought political preferment. Child: Ward H., married Estella Chaddon.

In records that defy the tooth of time.
—YOUNG.

Assessment Roll.

The following memorandum is taken from assessment rolls of the town and shows the valuation of property as far back as 1807, or earlier, when the town was called Fayette:

TOWNSHIP OF FAYETTE.

Garrett Van Waggoner, $600; Peter Whiteside, $900; Jonathan Lawrence, $500; Samuel M. Hopkins, $600; John Quacklnboss, $1860; George Gossmar, $2560.

OXFORD——GORE.

Andrew Mitchel, $400; Robert Gossmon, $680.

VILLAGE OF OXFORD.

Hoyt, Gold all that Lot of land Withe the Building there on, late the homestead of Thomas Butler, Esq., in the village of Oxford at the N. E. end of academy Square so called is bounded and decribed as follows, to wit: beginning at a point N. * * * along Main Street to Tracy's land * * * by Dan Throop's land * * * to academy Square on the Common along Side Throop's line * * * to the place of beginning, being 2 A 2 R 10 P, be it more or less. Amen. So say you all.

Hoyt, Gold, the large store and lots on which it stands on fort hill

Square in said village, Being Lots No. 3 & 4, in a village allotment of Lot 92 in Fayette. Being each 50 feet L 7 & a half, $800.

Assessment Roll of the Real and Personal Estates in the town of Oxford, in the County of Chenango, Made the fourteenth Day of May in the year of our Lord, one thousand Eight hundred and Seven, By Reuben Bristol, Gurdon Hewitt, and Benjamin Yale, Assessors for Said Town:

Ai Beard, $750; James Bennet, $525; Peter Burgot, $1900; Jonathan Baldwin, $1500; Zepheniah Eddy, $400; Benjamite Green, $360; Hosea Goodspeed, $50; Green Hall, $920.

Sink or swim, live or die, survive or perish, I give my hand and heart to this vote.

—Daniel Webster.

Town Meeting, 1811.

At the annual town meeting held at Perkins' Hotel on the first Tuesday of March, 1811, the following persons were chosen to fill the following offices: Isaac Sherwood, supervisor; Erastus Perkins, town clerk; Samuel Smith, Lyman Ives, Hiel Tracy, assessors; Daniel Johnson, Levi Sherwood, poor masters; Luther Cowles, Daniel Tracy, Asa Gregory, commissioners of highways; Zalmon Smith, Samuel Smith, Alvan Woodworth, Silas Haven, Ira Locke, constables; Samuel Smith, collector. The pathmasters chosen were: David Richmond, Abel Gibson, Jr., Rufus Phelps, Benjamite Green, Levi Sherwood, Alexander McNeil, John Nash, Zalmon Barnum, Archibald Lindsey, Hewitt Mills, Edward Hackett, Jr., Gerrit Burgot, Wilmot Munson, Henry Gordon, Ebenezer Belknap,, Simon Cook, Augustus Parsons, Elam Yale, Simeon Parker, Thomas Richmond, John Dodge, Abraham Pier, Levi Yale, Gurdeon Chamberlain, Thomas Root, Roswell Drake, Kniffen Wilson, Elemuel Cornwell, John Anson, Daniel Smith, Josiah Hackett, Job Wilcox, William Bennett, Asa Sherwood, Emmaus Locke, Gideon Mead, Aaron Root, Asa Havens, Luther Austin, James Cure, Solomon Bundy,

Roswell Holmes, Eliphalet Bristol, James Mudge, Jonathan Godfrey, Amos Rice, John Cely, Joseph White, William Cable, Samuel Kent, Samuel Balcom. The fence viewers and pound keepers were: David Tillotson, Russel Root, Thomas Root, Isaac Boyce, Joseph Gifford, Peter Esten, Roswell Morgan, John Nash, Uriah Yale, Amasa Coleman, Amos Burlison, James Hayes, Daniel Johnson, Samuel Balcom, Andrew Miller, Francis Balcom, John Hull, John Miles, Daniel T. Dickinson, Daniel Wetherby. At this meeting it was

Voted, that the Fence viewers be pound keepers for the present year.

Voted, that every pound keeper's yard be considered as a sufficient pound.

Voted, that the Fence viewers receive for their services six shillings a day.

Voted, that Hogs, Horses, Mules, Jacks or Jenneys shall not be free Commoners the present year, and every person taking either of them to pound shall be entitled to Twenty-five Cents a head.

Voted, that no beast or tame animal of the four footed kind, shall be a free commoner between the first day of November and April within half a mile of any Store, Tavern, Grist or Saw mill under a penalty of Twenty-five Cents a head.

Voted, that the owner of every Ram which is found running at large between the 10th day of September and the 10th day of November shall forfeit the sum of Two Dollars.

Voted, that there be a bounty of Ten Dollars for each Wolf Scalp or Panther's caught within the bounds of this Town for the Present Year.

A true record of the Proceedings of Town Meeting for the present Year.

ERASTUS PERKINS, Clerk.

But just as he began to tell,
The auld kirk-hammer strak the bell,
Some wee short hour ayout the twal,
Which raised us baith.

—BURNS.

The Village Bell Ringer.

The first bell in the county was placed in St. Paul's church in this village in 1818, and was rung for many years by an old man named Walter Dwight Russell. He was a well known character, and rang the bell on all occa-

sions, morning, noon and night, and for funerals, after which he struck the age of the deceased. He used to say that he knew when he was a mile away whether he was ringing the bell or not. His business was boring pump logs for water to be conveyed through the village. The following is a fac simile of an advertisement from a paper of that period, which gives an idea of the character of the "old sexton":

DING DONG BELL
PAY ME OFF WELL.

THE worthy inhabitants of the village of Oxford, who, for one long year, have heard the faithful and deep toned admonitions of the village bell, which reminds them of the hours of devotion, danger, rest, and refreshment, will, in their turn, please to salute my ears with the jingle of their CASH. But if they neglect this call, I swear by the "hollow head and long tongue" of my sleep destroying instrument, that the Justice shall rattle his precepts, and the Constable ring a peel that shall make both their ears tingle.

WALTER DWIGHT RUSSEL.

When I was sick you gave me bitter pills.
—SHAKESPEARE.

Levi P. Wagner, M. D.

Dr. Levi P. Wagner was born in Georgetown, Madison county, in the year 1830. His early education was academic, on completing which he entered the Albany Medical College. Upon graduating he came to Oxford in February, 1854, and commenced the practice of his profession in rooms now occupied by Dr. Chas. E. Thompson, dentist. He married January 15, 1857, Julia Emily Sands of Oxford, born February 4, 1838, in Franklin, N. Y. Mrs. Wagner was the daughter of Marcellus and Louisa (Chamberlain) Sands. Bereft of her parents at an early period in her life, she came to Oxford and resided with her uncle,

Dr. Wm. G. Sands. Her education was completed at Oxford Academy. She died June 18, 1901, in Binghamton, while on a visit.

Dr. Wagner after his marriage purchased the residence now known as the Congregational parsonage and moved his office thereto, where he remained until commissioned surgeon of the 114th Regt., N. Y. Vol., July 29, 1862, when he immediately entered upon his duties of the office. On the departure of the regiment for the seat of war, Dr. Wagner was presented by his townsmen with a revolver, and by the Masonic lodge with a sword. He remained with the regiment till Sheridan's great battle in the valley of the Shenandoah, when he was detached and put in charge of the Depot Field Hospital at Winchester, Va., of which he had entire control until April 1, 1865. Thereafter he had a important position on the staff of Gen. Hancock, which he held till his muster-out. After the close of the Civil war, becoming enamored of the Southern country, the doctor engaged extensively in cotton raising near Charleston, S. C., where he died on the 14th of October, 1872.

During his residence in Oxford, Dr. Wagner, both in his profession and as a citizen, won a large share of the public respect and esteem, and in the more intimate relations of companion and friend, showed his more generous and excellent gifts of head and heart. Mrs. Wagner, with her sons, returned from the South after the death of her husband and made her home in Norwich. Children:

William Sands, born August 23, 1858, in Oxford; married November 24, 1890, Sarah Scott in Norwich. Resides at Syracuse.

Max, born March 14, 1867, in South Carolina; died October 1, 1900, near Panay, Island of Luzon; married Jennie Macey, and had two children. Served in the United

States signal service for six years and later in the government weather bureau at Washington. At the outbreak of the war with Spain he volunteered in the signal service and spent several months in Cuba and Porto Rico. At the close of the war he was honorably discharged from service. Soon after he accepted a lieutenant's commission and went to the Philippines in charge of the signal service with the 26th U. S. Vol. Infantry. Was killed in ambush by Filipinos, while en route from Jaro to Santa Barbara with Private Lamareux.

MAUD, born September 21, 1868; died in infancy.

CLEMENT S., twin to Maud, resides in Norwich, and is station agent at Lackawanna depot. Unmarried.

FLORENCE, born in 1871; died in infancy.

In every rank, or great or small,
'Tis industry supports us all.
—GAY.

Albert C. Hovey.

Albert C. Hovey, son of Simon Hovey of Guilford, N. Y., was born in that town April 17, 1827. His grandfather, who was an early settler in Guilford, was a brother of Gen. Benj. Hovey, the pioneer of Oxford who gave the town its name. Albert C. Hovey came to Oxford in the fall of 1860, and up to the time of his death, February 8, 1901, followed the occupation of a farmer. In politics he was an active worker in the Republican party, and for many years held the town office of assessor. He married (1) March 6, 1851, Mary L. Small of Millbury, Mass., born November 11, 1831; died July 31, 1858, in Millbury; mar-

ried (2) January 2, 1859, Betsey Burton Woodruff, born June 22, 1825, in New Milford, Conn.; died October 1, 1901. Children, by first wife:

HARRIET F., married Gerrit Wheeler. Children: Nora, married Seymour Fleming; Emma, married Lee Bixby.

GEORGE A., died March 30, 1884; married (1) Julia Wheeler; married (2) Marilla Hartwell. Children by second wife: Luella, married Homer Padgett; Frank, married Bertha Gilbert; Ethel, married Alvin Stead.

HIRAM FRANK, in 1887 married Carrie E. Gifford of Oxford. He followed agricultural pursuits for many years and then moved into the village, where he now conducts an extensive livery business. He has been commissioner of highway and is now holding the office of deputy sheriff.

WILLIAM A., married Anna Doolittle.

Child by second wife:

MARY L., married Elroy V. Salisbury, and resides on the homestead.

To tell again a tale once fully told.
—BRYANT.

A Wolf Hunt.

In the winter of 1818-19 a wolf had its lair on Fitch Hill, three miles above this village, and sheep were missed nightly from the neighboring folds. Two young lads, Aaron B. Gates and Rathbone Lewis, believing they could kill the beast left the schoolhouse on the east side of the river at noon one day and started in pursuit. The only weapon they had was a gun, which Gates carried. On reaching Fitch Hill these bold young hunters found

under a pine root the hiding place of the wolf, but it had left and they followed the tracks until dark into the town of Preston, being unsuccessful in their search. They retraced their steps, but becoming tired and hungry stopped for the night with a hospitable neighbor. Next morning the boys were joined by a party of a dozen or more and again started in pursuit. Fresh tracks were found around the pine root, but the wolf was again missing and that day's hunt resulted as did the first. The chase was continued for more than a week, and on one or two occasions kept up through the night by some of the hunters, but still the wolf eluded them and killed a sheep every night. Horns were blown at intervals to enable those in pursuit to keep advised of their companions scattered among the hills and valleys. Major James McCall of Preston, a great hunter, though rather portly, followed the trail three days on horseback. Finally the wolf was driven upon the flat below this village, managing though closely watched to elude the vigilance of those on guard, and ran upon the ice in the river, over the dam and under the bridge, making his escape in the direction of Pharsalia with the hunters closely following. Night coming on, a number of the party, including young Gates, halted at the log house of a Mr. Powell, between East Pharsalia and the "Hook." They were hospitably entertained and early in the morning continued the pursuit, which was to close the chase. An old hunter named Breed, living near a large spruce swamp on what was then known as Moon Hill, hearing the horns of the approaching party, suspected the reason and watched; soon the wolf came in sight and was shot by him. The party, though disappointed at the result of the chase, determined to enjoy what was left of it, and placing the carcass in a sleigh drove to this village where a great time was had. They then went to Norwich, stopping

at the Gates farm where another team was hitched to a large sleigh and the trophy of the chase placed in a conspicuous position. At that early day liquor was sold in nearly every store, and, as the delegation halted in front of each, liberal potations were handed out and many of the boys got quite mellow before the finish. Mr. Breed claimed the large bounty then offered on wolves and got it.

Independence Day, 1824.

"I'd sooner ha' brewin' day and washin' day together than one o' these pleasurin' days. There's no work so tirin' as danglin' about an' starin', an' not rightly knowin' what you're goin' to do next.

—George Eliot.

In July, 1824, the anniversary of American Independence fell upon Sunday, but, notwithstanding this, the citizens were patriotic and held three celebrations on the following day. The *Gazette* of July 7, states:

INDEPENDENCE.

The anniversary of American Independence was celebrated in this village on Monday.

At an early hour a large concourse of citizens of this, and the adjacent towns, assembled at Perkins' Hotel. Capt. M'Call's troop of horse, and Capt. Glover's company of artillery, were paraded to unite with the citizens in the proceedings of the day, and deserve much credit for their martial appearance and military evolutions. A numerous procession was formed and proceeded to the Presbyterian Church. When the procession was formed there appeared on the ground, Sixteen Revolutionary officers and soldiers—men who had braved the dangers of war to secure our country's freedom. They formed themselves into a hollow square, and Col. Tracy the marshal of the day, committed to their charge two national standards; which were borne by two of the veterans within the square. The sight of the colours under which they had fought and bled, and the sound of martial music, appeared to reanimate these old soldiers, they marched off the ground with military precision and firmness, in the full enjoyment of the blessings of Liberty and Independence. The exercises in the church were commenced by an impressive prayer, by the Rev. Mr. Wickham.

A choir of singers, and a band of Instrumental music, are deserving of great praise, for the highly creditable manner in which they performed the national and patriotic airs, and other musick selected for the occasion.

The Declaration of Independence was read by Mr. Thorp, at the close of which he very eloquently eulogized the writer and the signers of that instrument.

The Oration by Mr. Allen, was listened to with the most profound attention. The auditors awarded to him their full approbation of the sentiments advanced by him, and were highly gratified by his pathos and his eloquence.

After the exercises at the church the procession again formed, and returned to the Hotel, where between 200 and 250 citizens sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by Mr. Perkins.—After dinner, Toasts were drank, accompanied with the discharge of cannon and music by the band.

In the afternoon upwards of 100 Ladies repaired to Doct. Packer's Island with a band of Musick, and partook of refreshments prepared for the occasion. Towards evening a number of Gentlemen joined them and the day was closed in sociable conversation with much good feelings. Several Volunteer Toasts were given containing much sentiment, but which we are unable to publish for want of room.

The third celebration was reported in the *Gazette,* as follows:

FOURTH OF JULY IN OXFORD.

The day was celebrated with unprecedented brilliancy, on the summit of the eminence in rear of E. Clark's Hotel. Distinguished fellow citizens from the adjacent towns honored the day with their presence. Mr. Clark dined nearly 500 persons, and it was estimated that 1000 were present.—It was truly a proud day, for freemen rich and poor. Several revolutionary veterans rallied around the proudly waving flag of liberty, and drank the memory of our much loved Washington.

We select a few of the numerous Volunteer Toasts on the occasion:

By a gentleman from Norwich:

The Young freemen of Chenango opposed to *Patent* Gentlemen and *mock drawing-room dignity.*

By a gentleman from Coventry:

The Yeomanry of the United-States—the *tag-rags and bobtails,* in the hour of doubt and peril their country's best defence.

By a gentleman from Bainbridge:

Our Farmers, Mechanics and Laborers—in time of war, *Soldiers.*

By a gentleman of Oxford:

The *Sowers* of discord—may they *reap* hemp well twisted.

By a gentleman of Oxford:

The officers and soldiers of our country—May they never *draw* the sword without cause, nor *sheath* it without conquest.

By a gentleman from Pharsalia:

The American Fair—They will never Surrender to any *arms* but those of Freemen.

The *Gazette* of July 14, contains the following communication from the ladies:

Mr. Hunt, The gentleman who furnished for your last week's paper the account of the celebration of the 4th July, at Perkins' Hotel in this village, connected with it also (inadvertently no doubt) the *Ladies'* celebration. The Ladies wish it to be distinctly understood that they were in no wise identified with either party, and they disclaim any newspaper plausibility calculated to mislead the public. They celebrated on "Cork Island" which has always been viewed as *neutral* ground. An invitation was given to all the reputable females within the precincts of the corporation, *rich and poor.* Indeed their primary object was to discountenance *invidious* distinctions in the celebration of public festivals.

In the issue of the following week, Mr. Hunt states:

It will be seen that on the anniversary of the day from which we date our freedom—two or three parties were got up to celebrate that event. We regret that on this occasion such animosities among citizens of a town should exist, as to prevent a strict unity of feeling and good will for each other—and we hesitate not to say, that if a deaf ear was turned to the voice of demagogues and designing men and that if every individual viewed mankind as they ought that *all men are born free, equal, and independent,* that no dissentions, no jealousies and animosities would exist, but that all would be peace, harmony and concord among us—and we hope that when another year shall roll around that ye may be as united in celebrating as were our fathers in achieving our independence.

On the light of Liberty you saw arise the light of Peace.
—Webster.

Samuel Baldwin, M. D.

Samuel Baldwin, M. D., was born in November, 1756, in the town of Egremont, Berkshire County, Mass. At the age of 17 he was one of the drafted militia of his native State, and served in the Continental army at different periods thirteen months. In the year 1775 he was a "min-

ute man," being called into active service soon after the battle of Lexington, on the 19th of April of that year. He joined the Continental troops at Boston, where he remained three months. In the following January he was one of the volunteers who marched into Canada, in prosecution of one of the most difficult and perilous enterprises undertaken during the Revolutionary contest. Besides suffering from an attack of the smallpox at Montreal, on his way to that place, he marched in one day sixty miles, on the ice of Lake Champlain. In the spring of 1777 the army, under General Gates, having been obliged to retreat before the combined British force of the North, Mr. Baldwin returned to Egremont much reduced and enfeebled by the hardships and privations which he had endured. He was drafted again in the following September, and once more joined the army under General Gates. He was present at the battle of Saratoga and witnessed one of the most important events of the Revolution, the surrender of Burgoyne on the 17th of October, 1777. After this Mr. Baldwin devoted himself to study, and succeeded in acquiring a substantial education in the ordinary branches of English learning, together with a sufficient knowledge of the languages to enable him to begin the study of medicine. At the age of 28 he entered upon the practice of his profession in the town of West Stockbridge, Mass., where he continued for sixteen years, during which he was twice elected a Representative to the Legislature. In the year 1800, after the death of his wife, he removed to Wyoming, Pa., where he resided, with the exception of two years spent in Ohio, until he came to this village in 1819, where he spent the remainder of his life with his daughter, Mrs. Epaphras Miller. He died September 2, 1842, aged 86.

Milo Porter.

Milo Porter, born in 1808 at Waterbury, Conn., came in early youth to Smithville, when he came to Oxford and purchased the farm now owned by M. E. Wooster, near the W. R. C. Home. Mr. Porter resided upon this place forty-five years, or until his death, which occurred August 27, 1899. Mrs. Porter died August 5, 1889. Children:

FIDELIA, married (1) Samuel A. Small, of Millbury, Mass.; married (2) Henry B. Stone, of Worcester, Mass., where she died in 1906.

PAULINE, resides in Oxford; unmarried.

WALKER, married Alice Brizee. Resides in Oxford.

THEODORE L., died January 11, 1864, aged 14.

I have done the state some service, and they know it;
No more of that; I pray you, in your letters,
When you shall these unlucky deeds relate,
Speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice.

—SHAKESPEARE.

Nathaniel Locke.

Nathaniel Locke came to Oxford as early as 1800, for he received the appointment of sheriff of Chenango County on the 12th of August, 1801, being the second person to hold that office in this county. He was also the second State senator from Chenango, serving four years from 1806, and was in the Assembly in 1810. Mr. Locke built the residence on Albany street, now occupied by Chas. W. Brown, Esq. He married Mary Hovey, daughter of Gen. Benjamin Hovey. His death occurred June 6, 1820, at the age of 54 years. Child:

Charles Floyd Thomas Locke, was born in Oxford and became a prominent citizen and business man. He served several terms as deputy sheriff, and in 1851 represented the town as supervisor, having been elected on the Whig ticket. He married in 1817. Addeliza Wood, who died May 25, 1854, aged 57 years. His second marriage was to Mrs. Eliza A. Willcox of Oxford, May 27, 1855. Her death occurred October 31, 1856, at the age of 38 years. Early in 1857 he went on a visit to Omaha, and on his return was taken ill in St. Louis, where he died May 13. Mr. Locke was very popular in the community. A universal joker, he had a word for everybody and a curt reply for anything said to him. Whoever of his associates met him expected and received a return of real wit. He was one of the best hearted men, full of sympathy for the afflicted and an open hand for charitable purposes. Children by first wife:

Mary G., born in 1818; died December 20, 1849, in Portsmouth, Ohio; married ——— Smith.

John Van Ness, born in 1820. He received the title of Major during his connection with a militia company in this village. In July, 1852, he went to California and his efforts in mining were favored by fortune. On the 17th of October of that year, while driving a loaded team between Stockton and the mines, the mules took fright and threw him to the ground, where the wheels of the wagon passed over him, terminating his existence. Married September 18, 1845, in Utica, Catherine Helen Clarke, born March 29, 1819, in Brookfield, N. Y. Children: Mary Elizabeth, married September 1, 1869, in Chicago, Edwin Hanson; residence, Denver. John Foote, residence, Denver. Child by second wife:

Helen, married Clarence R. Miner of Oxford.

I do remember an Apothecary,
And hereabouts he dwells.

—SHAKESPEARE.

Samuel Ray Clarke, M. D.

Dr. Samuel Ray Clarke, brother of Ethan Clarke, born in Brookfield, N. Y., November 6, 1800, came to Oxford and opened an office on the west side of the river where he practiced, and later carried on the drug business, with the exception of one or two short periods, until his death, which occurred June 1, 1860. Married Susan Maxon, daughter of Capt. William Cheever, October 15, 1827, at Oriskany, N. Y., who survived him but a short time, her death occurring on the 29th of October, 1860. Four sons were born to them. Dr. Clarke had, at different times, associated with him as partners in the drug business, E. G. Babcock, and from September, 1846, till June, 1847, Dr. George Douglas. In April, 1856, he disposed of his stock of drugs and medicines to his sons William H. and Herbert R., who dissolved the copartnership in September, 1857, the former continuing the business till April, 1858, his store in the Clarke block having been burned in the preceding February, when Dr. Clarke again became proprietor. He was a man of very fair standing in his profession, a good citizen, generous, public spirited and hospitable. Their children were:

HERBERT RAY CLARKE, born August 1, 1828, in Leonardsville, N. Y.; married in Philadelphia, June 3, 1857, Mary Whitney, daughter of Eli Wescott Bailey, died October

18, 1886, in Jersey City. Children: Herbert B., Fannie W., William H., Grace.

William Henry Clarke, born March 21, 1832, in Oxford; died at St. Paul, Minn., January 17, 1862; married in Greene, July 28, 1857, Julia McMahon born in New Milford, Conn., September 5, 1836, died March 15, 1864, at Oxford. Had one child, Henry McMahon, born May 8, 1860, died March 11, 1864.

James Orville Clarke, born May 11, 1836, at Oxford; married (1) July 11, 1860, Marie Louise, daughter of Dr. Austin and Jane (Perkins) Rouse of Oxford; married (2) March 17, 1881, Marian L., widow of Jacob Winants, and daughter of Chauncey and Rebecca Devendorf, at Savannah, Ga. Children by first wife: Fred Rouse, born April 17, 1861, at Oxford, died at Chicago, December 19, 1881; Charles Carter, born December 17, 1863, at Oxford, died April 17, 1894; Louise Maxson, born August 19, 1865, at Jersey City, married at Chicago, June 20, 1887, John Herbert. Children by second wife: Alma Marian, born in Savannah, Ga., February 12, 1882; James Orville, born in Ocala, Fla., August 4, 1887; John Dunn, born in Ocala, Fla., September 28, 1889.

Sarah Cornelia Clarke, born March 17, 1841; died September 26, 1842.

George Cheever Clarke, born January 11, 1844, in Oxford; married in 1871, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio., Clemmie, daughter of John Gershaw and Elizabeth (Curtis) Plympton, died July 17, 1886, in New York City. Children: Lizzie P., George H.

Everybody's family doctor was remarkably clever, and was understood to have immeasurable skill in the management and training of the most skittish or vicious diseases.
—GEORGE ELIOT.

Edward York, M. D.

Edward York, M. D., was born at North Stonington, Conn., August 26, 1797. He graduated at Yale Medical School, and in 1824 went to McDonough, where in August, 1825, he married Lydia Stratton. They lived for a time in East Smithville, now Tyner, he being the only physician that ever located there; then moved to Oxford, where his brother, Jeremiah York, and his sister, Mrs. Randall Maine, were living. Here he built a house on the west side of the river, but after about a year returned to McDonough and bought his father-in-law's farm, where he lived until about 1843, when failing health obliged him to give up both the farm and the practice of his profession. He moved to Oxford and bought a house on Mechanic street, where he died May 16, 1855. Mrs. York sold the homestead in 1877 and moved to Westfield, N. Y., to reside with her only son, George P. York. She died there on the 10th of February, 1888, aged 80. Dr. York was fond of his profession, and in many of his ideas was in advance of the thought and practice of his time. He was a man of excellent character, but his timidity, resulting from a want of confidence in his abilities, unfitted him for the profession. Children:

MINERVA, married Abel Patchen.

MARY, unmarried.

RACHEL, married Zacharias Paddock.

GEORGE P., died August 19, 1888, in Westfield, aged 50; unmarried.

MARIA, died January 26, 1855, aged 15.

ACHSA, married Dr. William H. Tanner; died in August, 1904, at Waterbury, Conn.

ALICE, unmarried

JENNY, married in 1873 J. Arthur Skinner of Westfield, N. Y.

Thomas Brown.

Thomas Brown, whose death occurred April 2, 1848, at the age of 68 years, at an early day lived upon the farm now occupied by the Woman's Relief Corps Home. His wife, Rebecca Jewell, who died June 8, 1843, at the age of 58 years, was a sister of Gilbert Jewell, a well known farmer of North Guilford, (born October 12, 1794; died June 16, 1876). Mr. Brown was a builder of bridges and mills, and was associated with Theodore Burr, a prominent bridge builder in the early days of this town. He built the long bridge at Sunbury, Pa., over the Susquehanna river, and it was there while engaged in this work his daughter, Sarah J., who married Levi Nichols, was born. His son, George T. Brown, who resided at the head of Albany street, died, April 16, 1882. Sarah, his wife, died January 7, 1892. His other children were: Alpheus, Gurdon, and William. Mrs. Brown was a daughter of Elisha Jewell of Trenton, N. J., who owned a stage coach line running between Trenton and New York and Philadelphia.

Thou know'st that all my fortunes are at sea.
—SHAKESPEARE.

Hatch Family.

The following record of the Hatch family in this country begins with Elisha Hatch, born in 1689, the record not giving his birth place. He died April 15, 1770, in Green River, Columbia, county, N. Y.

Among his children was Samuel, born June —, 1720, in Rhode Island; died April 30, 1797, in Hillsdale, N. Y. He was a sea captain and his mate was John Sweet, and the two owned the vessel they cruised in. After the death of Sweet, Captain Hatch married the widow of his mate. Captain Hatch followed the sea forty years, and then bought a farm in Hillsdale. Children:

SAMUEL, was drowned while at sea with his father. The body was recovered and buried at Hadam, Conn. At one time he was with a shipwrecked crew, and they were several days without food. Finally one night, becoming desperate from hunger, they resolved that the next day they would draw cuts to decide who should be sacrificed to save the lives of the remainder of the crew. But when morning dawned a vessel appeared, which rescued them from their perilous position and from the horrible ordeal they had planned to put in practice but a few hours before. At another time his crew were taken by the Morgans and they again suffered for lack of food, but for not as long a period.

JOHN, born May 4, 1761; was drowned July 26, 1839, in the Chenango river at South Oxford; married March 22, 1790, Martha Bassett, died June 3, 1850, in Oxford, aged 86 years. John was the only heir to his father's (Captain

Samuel Hatch's) property in Hillsdale, which was a part of the VanRensselaer claim. When the court decided it belonged to VanRensselaer John was left with scarcely anything, and moved to Oxford, where he bought land three miles below the village, upon which he remained until his death. Children:

HANNAH, born May 11, 1791; died in childhood at Hillsdale.

SAMUEL, born October 13, 1792, at Hillsdale.

JOHN S., born July 26, 1794, at Hillsdale; died of fever and ague February 13, 1846, in Oxford; married January 1, 1834, Irene Kilbourn, born March 30, 1815, at Hawley, Mass. Child: Thomas J., born October 28, 1834, in Oxford; married Mary E. Scoville at Mt. Morris, N. Y.; (children, John S., Ida J., Orra, Ira M.). Jane Eliza, born October 29, 1836, in Oxford; married March 7, 1854, A. D. Snyder, at Cuba, N. Y.; (children, Allen, Ivan, Ethel, died January—, 1892; Evelyn, married Walter P. Boname of Oxford; died February —, 1894; child, William). Francis Irene, born April 26, 1844, in Oxford; married William Kellar October 18, 1863, at Cuba, N. Y.

SALLY, born May 16, 1796, at Hillsdale; died January 17, 1892, in Oxford; married (1) John I. Powers; married (2) Shubel Bliss.

CHARLES C., born March 10, 1798, at Hillsdale.

HANNAH, 2d born December 1, 1801, at Hillsdale; died August 19, 1875, in Oxford; married September 11, 1832, Ira Merrill in Oxford, born November 10, 1806, in Waterbury, Conn. Ira Merrill's second wife was Mrs. Irene Hatch, widow of John S. (Children of Hannah and Ira: Martha, born October 31, 1833; died September 23, 1864; married November 29, 1854, Edgar Hull. Evalina, born April 23, 1836; died January 13, 1854. Mary M., born November 29, 1839; died April 10, 1870.)

MARGARET, born January 12, 1803, at Hillsdale, N. Y.; died June 14, 1883, in Oxford; married September 9, 1833, Benjamin R. Barber of Oxford, born November 11, 1802; died November 9, 1891. Children: Charles Oscar, born December 4, 1834, in Oxford; married in 1857 Celinda O. Finch; fitted himself for a teacher; was in Civil war, after which located in Kansas. Sarah, born June 2, 1837, in Oxford; died March 22, 1901, in Oxford; unmarried. Irene, born February 29, 1840; married (1) John Lord of Oxford; (2) George Salvage of Bolivar, N. Y., where she resides. Thomas A., born March 9, 1843; during Civil war enlisted in 89th N. Y. S. Regt. in August, 1861; wounded December —, 1862, and after several months in hospital was discharged and returned home May 20, 1863; died July 29, 1863. John W., born July 28, 1846; died August 20, 1848.

THOMAS, born March 29, 1806, in Hillsdale, N. Y.; died October 3, 1829, in New Troy, Pa.

Labour, wide as the earth, has its summit in heaven.
—CARLYLE.

William Lett.

William Lett, born in 1820 at Timacross, County Wexford, Ireland; died December 9, 1895, in Oxford; married in 1845 Catherine, daughter of Edward D'Arcey and Barbara Kirkman (Hodges) Clifford of Ashfield and Castle Annesley, County Wexford, Ireland. They left the "Green Isle" in 1851 and after a long and tedious voyage arrived in America and located in Oxford. Mrs. Lett was born in 1830 and with two daughters still resides in Oxford. Mr.

Lett was an industrious and persevering man, and in a short time was able to provide a comfortable home for his family. He assisted in laying out Riverview cemetery and lived to see a large majority of his early acquaintances taken their for their final rest. In later years he twice visited his native land, but still had a fond affection for his adopted country. Children:

ELIZABETH, a sister in the Loreto Convent, Gary, Ireland.

RICHARD, went to Texas, and nothing heard from him in years.

CHARLES, died March 10, 1906, in Oxford.

MARGARET J., married Thomas Nowlan of Binghamton. Since his death has resided in Oxford.

SARAH F., unmarried.

Only the Actions of the just
Smell sweet and blossom in the dust.

—SHIRLEY.

William E. Chapman.

William E. Chapman was born in Ithaca May 10, 1806. His mother died when he was young and the family was quite broken up. Mr. Chapman went to New York, learned the printer's trade and spent several years there with the Harpers, who thought very much of him. He became a member of the "Marine Temperance Society of the Port of New York," and was an earnest, faithful worker in the temperance cause the rest of his life. He came to Oxford about the year 1828, and on the 10th of December of that year, with Daniel Mack, purchased the Chenango *Repub-*

lican, then published in this village by Benjamin Corry. On March 3, 1831, Mr. Chapman and T. T. Flagler commenced a new series and soon after changed the name to *The Oxford Republican.* In 1838 Mr. Chapman became sole proprietor and continued the business of publisher, and also conducted a book store for a few years, when he sold to J. Taylor Bradt, and purchased the farm now owned and occupied by O. M. Westover. After several years spent upon the farm he retired from active business pursuits and returned to the village to spend his remaining days.

Mr. Chapman was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and had witnessed its growth in this village from the erection of the first edifice, and was actively identified with its welfare through his long and worthy life. For more than ten years he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Oxford Academy. In his life he manifested the qualities of the good citizen, the kind neighbor, and steadfast friend and patron of the religious and educational interest of the community. His death occurred August 21, 1887, at the age of 81 years. Mr. Chapman was twice married. His first wife was Harriet Sellick, who died June 19, 1829, leaving three daughters and one son:

Emily, married David C. Bronson, and died in 1872. Children: William C., married Ella E. Painter; has one daughter, Mrs. E. W. Tallman. Henry W., married Carrie Wiltsie; has one daughter, Imogene. Carrie J., died in 1857. Addie I., married John Tyler.

Harriet Elizabeth, still resides in Oxford; married Henry B. Willcox, now deceased.

Thomas E., was a member of the 44th N. Y. Cavalry during Civil war, and now a member of the G. A. R.; married (1) S. Arline Westover; married (2) Ida M. Birdle-

bough. Children by first wife: Clarence W., married Maggie C. Carter; have one son, Stuart R. Alice May.

Arminta M., married Charles W. Miles, and died at Saratoga February 23, 1881. Had one son, C. Grosvenor, now living in New York.

Mr. Chapman's second wife was Sarah L., daughter of Rev. Peter Lowe, born at Flatbush, L. I., in 1804, and died in Oxford January 19, 1887, aged 82. She was a sister of Mrs. Gerardus VanDerLyn, came here in 1829 and was married to Mr. Chapman in April 1840. Had one daughter:

Sarah Eliza, married Osmer M. Westover.

Our country! in her intercourse with foreign nations, may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong.
—Stephen Decatur.

Independence Day, 1852.

Oxford has been famous in times past for its Cork Island duel, the great Greek ball, and the celebrated Bridge bee. Matters of so much notoriety as to have found their way into the history of the county. We now place before our readers a description of the Fourth of July celebration in 1852, which was carried out in the good old fashioned way.

Thirteen guns saluted the rising sun, and the merry peal of the village bells fell harmoniously upon the waking senses of our citizens. Long before the hour assigned for the commencement of the exercises a larger gathering than had ever before assembled in our town had congregated upon Lafayette Square. The Oxford Guards, led by

Colonel John C. Bowers, were out in all their glory, and full of the original spirit. The members of the Fire Company, in neat and uniform dress, with Niagara engine decorated with flowers, also took a part in the exercises. At 10 o'clock the procession formed in front of the Stage House, Major Samuel A. Gifford acting as marshal and Colonel Solomon Bundy as assistant, and moved to Washington Square, marching to the stirring sound of martial music. Then, after an eloquent prayer by the Rev. S. Hanson Coxe, and music by the Gilbertsville Brass Band, the Declaration of Independence was read by Benjamin Sherwood, Esq. An exceedingly appropriate oration was then pronounced by James W. Glover, Esq., who adorned its close by a graceful and elegant address to a surviving soldier of the Revolution, present upon the platform, Mr. Ebenezer Terry of Guilford, aged 99.

During its delivery a wagon fantastically decorated and filled with some dozen young men, evidently bound on a spree, entered the village from the north. As it advanced they struck up a lively air, discoursing music from tin-horns, old pans, drums, and cowbells. Proceeding to the ground where the exercises were in progress, it was evident that a disturbance was contemplated. They were warned not to go on the ground, but not heeding the kindly warning, their vehicle was suddenly arrested in its progress, the music silenced, the instruments abandoned, and the serenading party, driving their detached horses before them, beat a precipitate retreat and disappeared in a sorry plight in the direction from which they came. Their wagon found a calm retreat in the waters of the Chenango. The incident furnished material for many humorous jokes, and will explain some allusions made at the feast.

At the close of the oration three enthusiastic cheers were given for the reader and the orator. The benediction was

pronounced by the Rev. Henry Callahan. Cheered by a lively piece from the band, the procession again formed and marched to LaFayette Square, where beneath the shade of a pleasant arbor a sumptuous dinner was prepared. An ox had been roasted whole for the occasion, and 520 persons sat down to the entertainment. Great numbers were unable to obtain seats at the table and dined at the hotels. After the cloth was removed the thirteen regular toasts were called for, each one being followed by three hearty cheers, one gun, and music by the band. The following toasts were then given:

By David Brown, President of the day.—Generals Scott and Pierce; Each leading a great army to battle. May the fight be an honorable one; and may the vanquished party render cheerful obedience to the rule of the victors.

Received with three hearty cheers.

By Ransom Balcom, Esq.—The Orator and Reader of the Day: Not like prophets who are without honor in their own country—their talents are properly appreciated at *home*.

To this Henry S. Monroe responded. He arose amid tremendous cheers and made a most brilliant and effective speech. He alluded in the most felicitous terms to the sacrificing of the ox, and to the artist who had rendered him immortal. He spoke of the glory and recollections of the day, and paid a high compliment to the patriotism of the citizens of Oxford. At the close of a most judicious and entertaining speech he presented:

The name of Ransom Balcom: The true Patriot, the distinguished Advocate, and the gifted Artist. (Mr. Balcom engraved the cut representing the ox upon the bills.)

Six cheers were given and Mr. Balcom was loudly called for. His response was eloquent and patriotic. He alluded to the fact that Oxford was the only place in the county where an ox had ever been roasted whole. He said in olden times a certain people made a golden calf, which they

could not eat, but worshipped; that the citizens of this place, discarding the ancient example set them, had slaughtered an ox, which they roasted whole and fed to the multitude. The calf of olden time was only food for the eye, whereas the ox of to-day was food for the stomach. There was no artist who had given us a picture of the golden calf, but if his friend (Monroe) was to be credited, there was one who had furnished a cut for the roasted ox, and had thus rendered the real four-footed beast of the day immortal. His speech throughout was exceedingly appropriate to the occasion.

William H. Hyde was called upon. He said that he was forcibly reminded by the carniverous visit of certain ill-disposed persons of a historic reminiscence quite in point. After the destruction of Troy by the Greeks, and when Aneas and his companions, after long wanderings, had landed upon the Strophades and spread on the shore their tables for a repast, the Harpies, flying monsters, attracted by the savory viands, flew down and stripped the tables. We had received a similar visit, but thanks to a few gallant patriots, our tables are unharmed—our noble ox was untouched. We do not blame them very much. A strong southern breeze wafted the savor of beef northward. They had had no beef for many weeks, and through their streets rang beef! beef! beef! Unlike the Harpies, they left their feathers behind them, and got no beef. If they will send down *that* wagon we will send them a bone. He closed with the following toast:

The Harpies who hovered around our Ox: If their impudence continues to keep pace with their rapacity, we hope soon to be taxed for a jail enlargement.

Three tremendous cheers followed.

S. Bundy then presented the banner which the "Harpies" had hoisted upon their ill-fated vehicle when enter-

ing the town, which was captured by one of the gallant Oxford Guards, accompanied by the following:

The unwelcome Delegation from the North: Behold, their once proud banner has become the plucked feathers of the "Harpies."

G. H. Perkins, after a few appropriate remarks gave the following toast, which was drank standing and in silence:

The Memory of Henry Clay: As his life was an emblem of the progress, success, and glory of our country—the recollections of his life will grow dearer to every true-hearted American. (Henry Clay died June 29, 1852.)

So when the great and good go down,
Their statues shall arise
To crowd those temples of our own,
Our fadeless memories.

By James W. Glover—Hungary and Ireland—deserving to be added to the catalogue of independent nations; may a day like this soon be theirs.

By T. S. Packer—The Oxford Firemen. They will never be able to throw water enough, even through their extra 100 feet of hose, to quench the fires of their patriotism.

By Wm. H. Hamilton—The Fair of our County. Unlike our County Fair, for the reason that the *largest* does not always take the preference.

By James Coley—The Ox roasted here to-day; his has been the unusual and distinguished honor of being sacrificed in the cause of liberty.

By a Guest—Captain Frederick Hopkins; The last survivor of Revolutionary times in Oxford. Would that Providence might prolong his days in comfortable health, with the power, fairy-like, never to grow older until the Fourth of July shall cease to be celebrated by the American people.

The best feeling prevailed at the table, and the toasts were drunk amid the most patriotic demonstrations. In the evening there was an exhibition of fireworks, including the throwing of fireballs, which were large balls of cotton soaked in camphene, lighted and hastily thrown from one direction to another until burned out.

Of manners gentle, of affections mild;
In wit a man, simplicity a child.
—POPE.

George Stone.

Among the early settlers in the eastern part of the town was George Stone, who emigrated from Foster, R. I., in 1827, where he was born in 1788. He, with his wife and four sons, the eldest eleven years of age, came with an ox team over a rough road, traveling many days on the way through an unbroken wilderness, encountering many a wolf, panther, and other wild beasts. He bought a farm of Joshua White, which was partly cleared and had a small frame house, and

"A rusty-gray curb, round a rugged stone well,
Where with dangle of bucket the sweep rose and fell."

Here Mr. Stone passed the remainder of his days, dying May 14, 1839. He married in 1813 Naomia Bennett, born in 1788, and died February 10, 1835, in Oxford. Children:

GEORGE W., married Jane Stratton and settled in Pennsylvania.

JONATHAN, married Minerva Price and settled in Illinois.

ZEBULON, died in Oxford; unmarried.

JOSHUA B., born October 11, 1816, in Foster, R. I.; died December 26, 1867, in Oxford; married February 5, 1840, Anna Matteson, born August 26, 1813, in Otsego county; died April 26, 1895, in Oxford. Mr. Stone remained on the homestead, and the same farm is now owned by his son, Charles, having been in the family well toward one

hundred years. Three years after her husband's death, Mrs. Stone married Lewis B. Anderson. Believing in early life that she had a special work to do for God and humanity, for nearly half a century she devoted her life to that purpose. She often conducted services in the Free Will Baptist Church in East Oxford and was a preacher of more than ordinary ability. She had lived in that vicinity nearly sixty years, and her kindly ways and social disposition gained for her friends from all stations of life.

Children of Joshua B. and Anna (Matteson) Stone: MARY C., married December 27, 1859, Joseph P. Turner of Oxford. CHARLES M., married October 21, 1874, Ada Smith of Oxford. (Children: Jessie, married Jesse Jacobs of South Oxford; Anna, married Irving McNitt of South Oxford, and resides in Norwich.) Mr. Stone has been supervisor of the town two terms. He has been prominent in town politics and is an influential and able member of the Republican organization. JENNIE F., married O. A. Campbell of Brooklyn. GEORGE H., married Grace Beebe of Marathon and resides in Tacoma, Wash. JESSIE F., died August 12, 1874, aged 17.

List; a brief tale.
—SHAKESPEARE.

Visited by Indians.

In 1826 there lived near the western part of the town Richard Holdridge, a hatter by trade, and he also taught the school in that neighborhood. One morning he arose early and finished a bonnet that a neighboring housewife had ordered, and then proceeded to the school house.

Mrs. Holdridge and baby were alone in the little house,

and while busily engaged about her household duties was startled by the opening of the door and the entrance of a number of Indians. Among them was a squaw, who, seeing the infant at play on the floor, picked it up tenderly and chanted an Indian lullaby. Mrs. Holdridge was now greatly alarmed as she thought her baby was to be taken from her, but soon saw tears trickling down the dusky face of the squaw, who by gestures indicated that she had recently lost her papoose, and that Mrs. Holdridge need feel no alarm as the little one would not be harmed or taken away.

In the meantime the remainder of the party had made a tour of inspection in the little house, and among all the articles they inspected the new bonnet was the only thing that really caught their eye. The chief, or leader of the party, who was tall and very stout, approached Mrs. Holdridge, and with the bonnet in his hand exclaimed, "Me want this!" She endeavored to explain that it was not her property and could not give it away, but to no purpose, and reluctantly granted the request, rather than have them make further search in the house for articles that could not be as easily replaced. The unwelcome guests soon departed with the chief in the lead wearing the odd headgear with much sedateness and pride.

The' unwieldy elephant,
To make them mirth, us'd all his might, and wreathed
His lithe probocis.
—Milton.

Early Exhibitions.

One of the first exhibitions of wild animals to appear in Oxford was held in the hotel barns in August, 1822. In

one barn was a large African lion and a monkey; in the other was a leopard, tiger and monkey. It was the town talk for many a day and but few missed the wonderful sight brought to their doors by the caravan. The following announcement appeared in the Oxford *Gazette:*

☞ TO THE CURIOUS.

A FULL GROWN

AFRICAN LION.

With several smaller ANIMALS, to be seen at Mr. CLARK'S hotel in Oxford, on Saturday the 24th and Monday the 26th of August. Hours of exhibition from 9 o'clock in the morning until 5 in the evening—with good music on an Organ.—Admittance 12 1-2 cents, children half price.

THE BRAZILIAN TIGER

AND

AFRICAN LEOPARD,

with several smaller Animals, also to be seen at the same time and place as above—with good music on different instruments.—Admittance 12 1-2 cents, children half price.

The first theatrical troup that came to this village was the Walsteins in September, 1823. The performance was given on Fort Hill in an old store, situated between the brick block and the building now occupied by the Memorial library. The building was then used as a Lancasterian School, in those primitive days of the scholastic reign of Joseph Lancaster. It was a huge barn-like, unpainted barracks. The stage and its gaudy decorations were fitted up for a week's campaign. The following is the advertisement taken from the *Gazette:*

OXFORD

THEATRE,

THIRD NIGHT.

MR. & MRS. WALSTEIN, (late Mrs. Baldwin, of the London and New York Theatres,) have the honour respectfully to announce to the inhabitants of Oxford and its vicinity, their intention of performing with a Theatrical Party, at Fort Hill Old Store, this evening, Sept. 24, when will be presented the celebrated Comedy of

MATRIMONY;

Or; the Castle of De Limburg.

After which the following Vocal Entertainments:

A favourite Hunting Song, by	Mrs. Walstein,
"Barney leave the Girls alone,"	Mr. Gilbert,
"The Hayband"—a Yorkshire Song,	Clarendon,
"Five to One, or the Rival Lovers,"	Walstein.

To conclude with the celebrated Comic Opera of the

POOR SOLDIER.

TICKETS twenty-five cents, to be had at Mr. Clark's Bar, & Mr. Throop's Office.—Doors open at seven, and curtain to rise at half after seven.—Front seats reserved for the Ladies.

The following advertisement from the *Gazette* of June 25, 1823, announces the appearance of an elephant, probably the first that was ever exhibited in this town. A single elephant at that time excited more interest than the droves that circus companies own at the present day, and, probably, the small boy with those of a larger growth, were up early in the morning to welcome the great pachydermatous mammalia and later, to witness the "sagacious animal draw a cork from a well filled bottle and drink the contents"—a feat that, undoubtedly, many of the patrons imitated successfully, and accounts for the custom that is kept up to this day on public occasions, and especially when Barnum with his "Greatest on Earth" invades the country:

AN EXHIBITION

Of A Natural Curiosity,

THE LARGE AND LEARNED

ELEPHANT.

TO be seen at Clark's Tavern, in the village of Oxford, on Friday and Saturday, the 4th and 5th of July, 1823.

This wonderful Animal, which for Sagacity and Docility exceeds any one ever imported into this country, will go through her astonishing performances, which have excited the admiration of every beholder.

The Elephant is not only the largest and most sagacious animal in the world, but from the peculiar manner in which it takes its food and drink of every kind with its trunk, is acknowledged to be one of the GREATEST NATURAL CURIOSITIES, ever offered to the public.

She is nearly 8 feet high, 20 feet from the end of her trunk to that of her tail, 12 feet 6 inches round her body, 3 feet 9 inches round her legs, 3 feet 6 inches round her feet, and is judged to weigh between SIX & SEVEN THOUSAND POUNDS.

Some of the amusing exercises of this animal, are, to kneel to the company, balance her body alternately on each pair of legs, present her right foot to enable her keeper or any other person to mount her trunk, carry them about the room and safely replace them, draw a cork from a filled bottle and drink the contents, and then present the empty bottle and cork to her keeper. She will lie down, sit up, and rise at command, bows and whistles at request, answers to the call of her keeper, she takes from the floor a small piece of money with her trunk and returns it to her keeper, besides many other marks of sagacity. Those wishing to gratify their curiosity, may now have an opportunity.

Music on the ancient Jewish Symbal.

Admittance 12 1-2 *Cents, Children under* 12, *half price. Hours of exhibition from* 9 *in the morning until* 5 *in the evening.*

Alike all ages: dames of ancient days
Have led their children through the mirthful maze;
And the gay grandsire, skill'd in gestic lore,
Has frisk'd beneath the burden of threescore.

—GOLDSMITH.

Grand Ball.

In the year 1823 the sympathies of the citizens of Oxford were aroused by the revolution progressing in Greece. Her people had long suffered from oppression and cruel-

ties imposed by the Turks living among them, who little expected that the time of retribution was at hand. As the Greeks became enlightened by contact with the world at large they chafed under the tyranny of their oppressors and resolved to throw off the yoke of the Moslems. They organized a secret society whose members were solemnly pledged to fight for the emancipation of their country. When the signal was given for the rebellion to begin there was a general response throughout all Greece. The spirit of Miltiades and Leonidas possessed them. The uprising became so serious that the Turks resorted to the most extreme cruelties in their defence; churches were pillaged and hundreds of priests slain, while men, women and children were massacred, and towns ruined and given to the flames; the monuments of Grecian glory were trampled beneath the feet of the merciless Moslem. Our people were anxious to assist in relieving such sufferings, and devised a plan for a Greek Ball, for which the price of tickets was to be three dollars and the balance above expenses should be given to the Greeks. A meeting was called and the accompanying minutes prepared:

At a meeting of the Officers of the 32d Brigade of Infantry, and 16th Regiment of Artillery, held at the Hotel of E. Clark, in the village of Oxford, on Saturday the 20th day of December, 1823, Brigadier Gen. Ransom Rathbone was called to the chair, and Lieut. Col. S. G. Throop, of the 16th Reg. of Artillery, appointed Secretary.

Resolved, That we view with painful anxiety the glorious struggle now making by the Greeks, to emancipate themselves from OTTOMAN OPPRESSION, and once more gain a footing among the nations of the earth. With a view to aid them in their *Patriotick Struggle*, and at the same commemorate an event no less honourable to American arms, than interesting to the Nation—

Resolved, That a MILITARY BALL be given on the evening of the 8th of January next, at the hotel of Ethan Clark, in the village of Oxford, in commemoration of the glorious victory obtained by the gallant Gen. *Andrew Jackson* and the Militia under his command, in his defence of New-Orleans; and that the surplus funds arising from said Ball, be appropriated for the benefit of the Greeks.

Resolved, That a committee of arrangement be appointed, including the Chairman and Secretary.
Resolved, That Gen. R. Rathbone be appointed Treasurer.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Ransom Rathbone, Brig. General 32d brigade Infantry.
S. G. Throop, Lieut. Col. 16th Reg. Artillery of St. N. Y.
A. C. Welch, Col. of the 190th Reg. Infantry.
John Noyes, Jr. Col. of the 105th Reg. Infantry.
Elijah Rathbone, Col. of 133d do.
Joseph Juliand, Lt. Col. do. do.
Robert Monell, Brigade Maj. 32d Brigade Infantry.
R. VanWagenen, Brigade 2d Major do do.
A. C. Griswold, Aidecamp.
George Farnham, Adjutant.
S. G. THROOP, *Sec'y.*

The youth and beauty of the town and country about assembled in force, under the auspices of the distinguished array of names which formed the military committee, full of enthusiasm in view of combining the intrinsic delights of the hop with the furtherance of the cause which appealed to their generous sympathies and sense of justice. —Men and maidens, in Roman togas and Grecian gowns, swept the floors of the hotel, even to the small hours, at least to their own intense enjoyment, (except in the case of Judge Robert Monell of Greene, who sundered his heel cord for the sake of Grecian patriots), although it must be confessed that, had it depended on the unwitting Greeks to settle the deficit in Ball expenses versus receipts, they would have been mulcted in the sum of ten dollars.

He had kept
The whiteness of his soul, and thus men o'er him wept.
—BYRON.

Samuel Ross.

When the village of Oxford had been settled for about twenty years, Samuel Ross, a graduate of Princeton College and a contemporary of Theodore Frelinghuysen and

N. S. Prime, the father of Ireneus Prime of the New York *Observer,* came from the city of New York to make his future home with his wife, who was Margaret Shepard Revel from the eastern shore of Virginia. His father, Andrew Ross, was a descendant of John Ross of Scotland, who was one of the first settlers of New Jersey. Samuel Ross and wife came here in the year 1815, and Mrs. Ross died the following year. Mr. Ross at one time resided on the Nathan Pendleton farm, and also had a home on Clinton street. While at the latter place his grounds extended to the top of the hill west of the street and running parallel with Columbia street. Upon this hill Mr. Ross located a private burying ground enclosed in brick walls and protected by a right of way to and from the same against future owners of the adjoining grounds. Several burials were made therein, but after the lapse of some seventy-five years, the only vestige of it now remaining is a headstone to the memory of Margaret Shepard Ross. Mr. and Mrs. Ross were among the first members of St. Paul's church, and at the first celebration of the Holy Communion they were of the seven members who communicated. Mr. Ross was elected warden in 1816 and continued a warden or vestryman for several years. His associates at that time were Hon. John Tracy, Uri Tracy, James Clapp, Simon G. Throop, Jr., Stephen O. Runyan, Ransom Rathbone and Erastus Perkins. Mrs. Ross died at the home of Rev. Wm. B. Lacey and the subsequent marriage of Mr. Ross to Mrs. Maria Stephens is recorded. She was the widow of Alvan Stephens and the daughter of Robert Randall of Brookfield, Madison county. Mr. Stephens died in the first year of his marriage and thus she became a bride, a mother, and a widow in the one brief year of her marriage. In her marriage to Mr. Ross six children were born to them, Samuel R., George, Margaret, Mary E. and Martha, twins;

and Elizabeth Ann. All of whom have passed away except their eldest son, Samuel Randall Ross. Mary E., married Elijah Jones; died June 5, 1895, in Auburndale, Mass. Early in her married life she went to Paris and studied art, leaving her husband and infant child for a year or so. She became quite noted as an artist in oil. Elizabeth Ann died July 8, 1894, in Andover, Mass., married Rev. J. E. Latimer, a Methodist minister, who afterwards became a professor in the Boston University; George went to Portsmouth, Ohio, and became a commercial traveler for his brother Samuel. He was drowned in Kentucky while attempting to ford Big Sandy river. Upon the marriage of their daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, Mr. and Mrs. Ross removed from Oxford to Elmira to enjoy their society, where he died in 1861. When the Rev. J. E. Latimer and wife removed to Boston, Mrs. Ross accompanied them and died there in 1875. They are buried in Elmira. Those who lived in Oxford in the early years of its history recalled his blameless life and integrity, and it was a great satisfaction to them to know that to the period of his death, his sunset of life was serene and happy, with the capacity to enjoy the society of friends and his favorite authors until his brief illness of a week which terminated his life. His death was that of the exultant Christian, and with looks of love and words of tender sympathy to those around him, it was evident that his eyes were turned rapturously to the bright shore which gleamed upon his dying vision from the other side of the dark river of death, and to the very last he spoke of the dear old Oxford friends, and he spoke of them with deep emotion.

Samuel Randall Ross was born April 8, 1819, in this village. He was educated at Oxford Academy, and at the age of 24 located in Portsmouth, Ohio, where he has since resided. He engaged in the wholesale grocery business,

which he continued until 1857, when he retired from business until 1861. He then entered the wholesale tobacco business in Cincinnati, under the firm name of Kercheval & Ross, from which he retired in 1873.

His wife was Miss Elizabeth Kinney of Portsmouth, whom he married September 7, 1847. Mrs. Ross died October 28, 1897. The surviving children are: Miss Anna Ross, George Kinney Ross, of Portsmouth; Thomas Waller Ross, of Cleveland, O.

Mr. Ross is the only remaining old time merchant of Portsmouth, and a strong church man, having been connected with the Episcopal church ever since he has lived in that city. His hospitality is well known and he has entertained more distinguished people than any other person in the place of his adoption. Mr. Ross has passed his 87th year, and enjoys excellent health and is in the possession of all his faculties. His society and companionship are much sought after and highly appreciated.

Whoe'er amidst the sons
Of reason, valour, liberty, and virtue,
Displays distinguish'd merit, is a noble
Of Nature's own creating.

—THOMSON.

Henry VanDerLyn, Esq.

Henry Van Der Lyn, Esq., was born on the 24th day of April, 1784, at Kingston, N. Y. He was a son of Peter Van Der Lyn, a worthy and skillful surgeon during the Revolutionary war, and a nephew of John Van Der Lyn, who was considered in his day one of the world's most famous artists. After pursuing his studies in Kingston

Academy, he entered Union college at the age of 16, graduating with the honors of the valedictory in 1802, and soon thereafter commenced the study of law with the distinguished and able lawyer, Hon. Ogden Edwards in New York, in whose office he acquired those habits of close study and discrimination which distinguished him through life, and that knowledge of law which secured him an admission to the Bar in 1806.

Mr. Van Der Lyn early in life formed the habit of daily writing in a journal commentaries on the works he read, making extracts and noting down the events of his life and of society around him. We make the following extracts:

While at college I got a coat altered and made with a single row of buttons and buttonholes in front. This harmless freak caused the nickname of Count Ramford to be fixed on me, and which has followed to this day.

At this time barbers were in the height of their usefulness and prosperity, when curling tongs and powder were applied to the head of every fashionable, and many torturing twinges have I endured during the tedious operations of head dressing.

In the winter of 1806 I made a visit to Albany to consult some members of the Legislature on the subject of my removal to the western part of the State, but without effect. I called on Frederic A. De Long, who was to remove in the spring to Jericho (Bainbridge), in Chenango county, for information about the best place of my settlement, and he mentioned Oxford about 15 miles from Jericho. I yielded to his advice and made my arrangements to bid a final adieu to my native place. In April, 1806, I went to New York to purchase the residue of my law library, which was small but large enough for me at that time. In the latter end of May I put my books, paper case and trunk on board a wagon, and accompanied by my Uncle Philip Newkirk, began my journey to Oxford, and separated from the friends of my youth, from my mother, brothers, and relatives in search of professional fame and the means of support. I was then in my 22d year and felt a sensation of apprehension and distrust in going among strangers to a distant place to commence the novel business of instructing others and managing their legal concerns. My Uncle Philip and I arrived at Oxford in the afternoon on Saturday. I was somewhat disappointed on my first view of the place, it was small with only two painted houses in it and the stumps in the adjoining fields showed that it was a young settlement. We lodged at the hotel of Erastus Perkins. The next day was Sunday and the young people of the village assembled in the hall room of Mr. Perkin's to sing psalms. I took my seat in the hall to see them as they went up stairs. There was no church nor regular divine service in the village. I went to board with Major Dan Throop, who had a number of boarders. Ransom Rathbone, a merchant; Roswell Randall, a student in the office of Stephen O. Runyan; John Kinsey, an old

bachelor; and two Miss Bepacs from Hudson, formed the group that daily assembled at the table of Major Dan.

The last of January, 1815, Garry went out with Daniel Perry in a sled to Kingston to remove mother to Oxford. Aunt Ann Master and Thomas G. Newkirk returned with him. Since this time I have been a housekeeper.

Mr. Van Der Lyn, finding in the place of his settlement an institution of learning, gave early attention to its welfare, and was for many years its zealous friend, trustee, and supporter. He never wearied in doing well for that institution, and Oxford Academy owes to him and a few other early supporters much of its high standing and usefulness. He was also a liberal contributor to St. Paul's church, and interested himself in the circulation of a subscription to procure a suitable place of worship.

Mr. Van Der Lyn died October 1, 1865, in the 82d year of his age, after a life of activity and labor of more than fifty-nine years, and amid scenes so changed, beholding the growth of a prosperous village and the country about him changed from a wilderness to bright fields.

The term "Count" clung to him through life from his great suavity and gentlemanly manners. He was a confirmed bachelor, possessing many genial peculiarities of character, which rendered him a great favorite in the social reunions of the bench and bar during term time. Numerous legends are current of his tact and readiness in extricating himself from occasional *faux pas*, induced by his excessive courtliness and desire to render himself agreeable to those with whom at the time he happened to be conversing.

The story is told that Mr. Van Der Lyn once owned a dog that robbed the meat market of a roast of beef and escaped. The proprietor reasoned that if he went to the owner and told him his dog had stolen the meat, that it would be denied, so he adopted another plan. Entering the "Count's" office, he told of the robbery committed and

asked what he should do about it. He was advised to make out a bill and present it to the owner. The butcher promptly prepared the bill and found it amounted to five dollars, which he presented to the "Count," saying it was his dog that was the thief. "All right," was the reply, and the bill was paid. As the butcher was leaving the "Count" called and reminded him of a "strange coincidence." He said that five dollars was just the amount of his bill for advice. The butcher returned the five dollars he had just collected and retired without another word. He was rendered speechless.

CENSUS OF 1825.—Following is the census of the town in 1825, copied verbatim from the Oxford *Gazette*:

450 heads of families;
1,410 males;
1,391 females; Total 2,801.
283 subject to militia duty.
532 voters.
19 aliens.
1 coloured persons not taxed.
2 do do taxed.
1 do taxed and qualified to vote.
333 married females under 45 years of age.
253 unmarried females between 16 & 45.
937 do under 16 years of age.
21 marriages—62 male births—46 female births—24 male deaths—25 female deaths, within the past year.
14,184 acres of improved lands.
3,506 head of neat cattle.
537 horses.
12,317 sheep.
1,923 hogs.
6,725 yards of fulled cloth;
10,423 do of flannel; and
15,872 do of linen, manufactured within the past year.
3 Grist-mills—14 Saw-mills—1 Oil-mill—3 Fulling-mills—3 Carding machines—1 Woolen factory—1 Trip hammer—3 Distilleries—3 Asheries.

CENSUS OF OXFORD VILLAGE.

112 heads of Families—378 males—363 females.—Total 741.

An honest man, close button'd to the chin,
Broadcloth without, and a warm heart within.
—Cowper.

Austin Hyde.

Judge Austin Hyde, son of Benjamin Hyde, was born in Franklin, Conn., January 21, 1789, his father having been a soldier and afterwards a pensioner of the Revolution. He came to this village when it was comparatively new and was the second of six brothers and two sisters, all of whom settled in this State, and the eldest, Bela B., was the first collector appointed for the Erie canal at the present city of Rome. Uri Tracy then was county clerk and Mr. Hyde became his deputy. Soon thereafter the office was removed to Norwich, where he went and remained several years, but returned and became a member of the mercantile firm of Mygatt & Hyde, doing business at the old store now removed, which stood in the corner near the residence of Joseph E. Packard.

Mr. Hyde was Supervisor of the town many years; twice a member of the State Legislature, in 1823 and 1833; the first collector appointed at this place for the Chenango canal in 1838; was soon after a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the county; a trustee of Oxford Academy, and a long time its secretary and treasurer; a warden of St. Paul's church; appointed receiver to close up the affairs of the Chenango County Mutual Insurance Company, and discharged other important trusts, public and private. Mr. Hyde, on his return from Albany after the passage of the Chenango canal bill, was met by a delegation of townsmen, who had procured a boat, placed it on wheels, and in this he was escorted to his residence, which

is now occupied by A. D. Harrington. The town was illuminated and Mr. Hyde entertained a large company that evening. A severe thunderstorm came up and many were detained at the house till a late hour, and were finally carried home in a lumber wagon on account of the heavy downpour and condition of the streets.

Mr. Hyde married in October, 1819, at New Milford, Conn., Elizabeth, a sister of Henry and William Mygatt, and died at his home in this village, now the residence of A. D. Harrington, February 25, 1850, leaving his widow, who died June 19, 1882, and four children, Caroline E., William H., Minerva H., who married Clark I. Hayes of Unadilla, Otsego county, and died January 9, 1904, and Mary E. The Misses Hyde are the last of the family, and still reside in Oxford.

William H. Hyde, son of Austin and Elizabeth (Mygatt) Hyde, was born in this village September 4, 1826. His early education was obtained at Oxford Academy, where he prepared for Yale College, but not finding student life there to his liking withdrew and entered Hobart College at Geneva, N. Y., graduating in 1848. Returning home he taught in the Academy for several terms and read law with Henry R. Mygatt. Admitted to the bar in 1854, he was for a short time a partner of James W. Glover. In 1857 he represented Chenango county in the Legislature.

June 16, 1859, Mr. Hyde married Miss Myra Bates Graves at Northampton, Mass., and soon after removed to Oconomowoc, Wis., where he practiced law. On the breaking out of the Civil war, Mr. Hyde returned to Oxford, where he remained until his death, which occurred May 5, 1902.

In 1865 Mr. Hyde was elected Special County Judge, serving three years, and was Supervisor of the town for four years. In the year 1857 he was elected a trustee of

Oxford Academy, resigned that year, was re-elected in 1873, made vice-president of the board in 1878 and president in 1881, an office he held up to the uniting of the Academy with the Union school district. He was thoroughly conversant with the history of the institution, having prepared the historical address for the jubilee celebration in 1854. Mr. Hyde was a warm friend of the Academy, did a great deal for its advancement, and his pen was ever ready to perpetuate its long and brilliant career. For several years, previous to and during the Civil war, he did the editorial work on THE OXFORD TIMES. His work was that of a scholar and polished writer.

Mr. Hyde was a communicant of St. Paul's church, having been confirmed May 23, 1848, by Bishop DeLancy, and for many years a member of the vestry, and at his death a warden of the church.

Mrs. Hyde and only child, Elizabeth Mygatt Hyde, are yet residents of Oxford.

The next best thing to being witty one's-self, is to be able to quote another's wit.

—BOVEE.

Practical Jokes.

Among the practical jokers of the early days in the town's history were Ira and Luman McNeil, honest and industrious men, but fond of a joke. Not far behind them were William Moore, Lyman Hunnewell, Mark Sherwood, Noble Betts, and several others. They were a jolly set and enjoyed fun no matter at whose expense. About 1820 their fame as practical jokers became widely known throughout the surrounding country, and frequently travelers who came to Oxford spoke of the fact, and then were

quite apt to experience some of their pranks. An old citizen used to relate that when a resident of Cooperstown he strayed into this vicinity while hunting and came to the top of the east hill, looked down on the village, but dared not enter; having heard of the jokes played on unsuspecting strangers.

One day a traveler stopping at the Stage house casually remarked to the landlord that he had heard of the sells and jokes that the villagers were noted for, and hinted that it would take a pretty smart man to get the start of him. At this one of the inmates left the barroom and the landlord replied evasively to the stranger's remarks. Soon after a man came rushing in and excitedly asked the landlord for his crowbar and chain, as "a huge turtle had got wedged in the flume over at the mill and stopped the wheel." The mill stood on the site of Harrington's block, and the unsuspecting traveler, now greatly excited, followed the man and tools over to see the wonderful sight, but was soon back with dripping clothes, as the jokers had succeeded in getting him completely submerged in the water. He acknowledged the sell, and tradition relates that the receipts at the bar for the remainder of the day, owing to the liberality of the stranger, were very satisfactory to the landlord.

The dull season in town was alleviated by the practical jokes perpetrated on country customers, who were sent to Mygatt's tannery to see the big eel caught in the river. Their curiosity was usually satisfied, for a plank was so arranged that the victim in attempting to look into a vat would fall in, and on extricating himself would usually swear vengeance on the perpetrator.

Men who had music in their souls were sent to the Episcopal rectory to borrow the rector's fiddle or drum; and the patience of the Rev. Leverett Bush was sorely tried in

explaining to the numerous victims that it was meant for a practical joke, as he had no musical instruments of any kind.

Sometimes the jokes were returned by subjects who were not so green as they appeared to be. In those days there were what was called "tramping jours," journeymen seeking work. On a summer's morning there came to the Stage house an innocent looking young man, who intimated that he was a blacksmith looking for work, and in the course of the forenoon called at McNeil's shop. He stated his business, and the shop hands, thinking him a good subject to practice upon, began plying him with questions, among others whether he thought he could weld four pieces of iron together at one heat. He was not so sure about that and thought it a little difficult. When the noon hour arrived they left him alone in the shop instead of inviting him to dinner, and on their return found he had left practical proof of his skill as a blacksmith. He had taken two pairs of valuable tongs, placed their jaws into each other, welded them very firmly and departed to seek employment elsewhere.

On another occasion a man was hired to tear down a fence in front of the residence of Jonathan Baldwin, who then lived in a house on the premises now occupied by F. G. Clarke, with a tumbledown fence surrounding it. William Moore was the bartender in the hotel on the opposite corner, and one day he stepped out, leaving Lyman Hunnewell in the barroom alone. A stranger came in looking for a job, and taking him for the landlord inquired if he wanted to hire a man. Lyman, who was quick-witted, thought he would have some fun with the "deacon," replied that he did, and going to the door pointed to Mr. Baldwin's house, saying: "I am going to tear that old house down and put up new buildings, and you may begin

with the fence. An old crazy man lives, or stays, there who may object to your working, but pay no attention to him as he is of no account." Lyman then took the man into dinner, after which he gave him an ax, hammer, and a pan, charging him to save all the nails. The man went to work in earnest and soon had the fence knocked to pieces. Mr. Baldwin, hearing the noise, went out to see what it was about, and on his discovery of the destruction of his fence, rushed out and exclaimed: "What in h—l and d—n are you tearing that down for?" The man paid no attention to him until Mr. Baldwin seized a handspike from the woodpile and threatened to spill his brains out; then he quit and went to the hotel, inquiring for the landlord. Moore told him he was out, but Lyman was upstairs with a few of his cronies looking out of a window enjoying the sport. The landlord did not return, and finally the bartender put on a sober face and told the stranger that the crazy old fellow was after a warrant for his arrest, and the stranger hurriedly left town, never to return.

At another time the player of the joke had the tables turned on him. Bradford Church, a brother-in-law of Luman McNeil, who was noted as being quite dry in his jokes, but not so practical, was fatting a very large porker that became quite celebrated as the largest hog in the village. After it was killed one of the hams was hung in a smokehouse to make it the more palatable for table use. It was the town talk and the time for cutting the "big ham" was an event in the near future. When the time at last arrived Mr. Church went for the ham, but someone had been before him, and it was gone, creating considerable excitement, and all of the "west side" neighbors were very anxious to know what had become of it. Finally a search warrant was obtained, and Charles A. Hunt, the constable of twenty years service, employed to find the missing ham.

A crowd soon gathered with all the habitual curiosity to see the outcome of the affair; but there was one among them who was becoming uncomfortable; he knew more about the ham than he wished he did, and matters were getting quite serious. Ira McNeil had removed the ham for a joke, and the question was how to get it back. After a while he saw the opportunity to edge away from the crowd, which were following the constable to search suspected premises, and getting the ham into a cornbasket attempted to return it unseen, but had scarcely reached the street when he was confronted by the officer and his solicitous followers. He stood convicted. The ham was found in the basket on his back; what better proof of guilt? The affair had become a little too serious for a joke and too ludicrous for a crime, and the quickest and most satisfactory way in which to end the matter was to adjourn the crowd to the tavern and liquidate the constable's fees, which owing, to his several deputies present, were not light.

Life is labour and death is rest.
—ARCHIAS.

Havens Family.

John Havens, a distiller by trade, came to Oxford as early as 1806. For a few months he found employment in a distillery in the village and then purchased and moved upon the land east of the village, which in the course of a few years he developed into a fine farm. He was the only child of his parents, and when but eight months old his mother died. His father was a patriot of 1776 and endured

with others the hardships of Continental army life. Mr. Havens had very few advantages in early youth, and his first term in school was while in his eighteenth year. He always felt the lack of early schooling and gave his children the education which was denied him.

Mr. Havens was born January 18, 1784, in Hinsdale, Columbia county, N. Y., and died June 10, 1862, in Oxford. He married November 9, 1806, Sally Newcomb, who was a school teacher in Oxford. She was born May 30, 1778, in Lebanon, Conn., and died December 5, 1858, in Oxford. They were the parents of eleven children, all born in Oxford, three of whom died in infancy. Those who grew to maturity were:

George N., born October 16, 1809; died January 21, 1887, in Oxford; married February 21, 1836, in Oxford, Lucretia Willoughby, daughter of Bliss and Fanny (Pattan) Willoughby. Children: Ann Lee, married Peter J. Conover of Oxford; (adopted child, Lily Belle, married Walton Bennett and resides in Columbus, O.). John K., born April 6, 1839, in Oxford; died March 3, 1887, in Guilford; married September 24, 1860, Julia A. Burton of Oxford; (children, Minnie Lee, born in Oxford, married Edgar B. Stansell of Syracuse, who died November 7, 1888; George B.. born in Coventry, married Belle Burton and resides in Guilford; Leroy N., born in Guilford, married Grace M. Murray and resides in Syracuse). Margaret, married William Manning, deceased; (child, Fanny, married Rev. A. W. Burke). Fanny, born in 1844, died in 1861, married Andrew Burton; (child, Orrie, resides in Newark, N. J.).

Salome B., born June 13, 1811; died February 28, 1890; married December 27, 1840, Garner Wade. Children: Clarence, Harris, died in Illinois.

Bradford, born September 24, 1815; died July 25, 1898,

in Guilford; married Sally Ann Harrington. Children: Leroy N., enlisted during Civil war in Co. A, 114th Regt. N. Y. S. V.; shot in temple and instantly killed at battle of Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864. Sarah C., married Cornelius Whitcomb of Guilford.

Abigail, born June 7, 1817; married December 15, 1836, Solomon C. Mowry.

Theoda, born May 23, 1819; died August 15, 1882, in Oxford; married October 7, 1846, Gilbert Bowers, born February 12, 1820, in Scipio, Cayuga county, N. Y.; died December 15, 1886, in Oxford; enlisted during Civil war in Co. E, 89th N. Y. S. V. Children: Worthington N., married Lizzie Wackford. Luther E., married Cora Collyer. Ann Marie, died in infancy. James E., born September 10, 1853; died January 14, 1876. Mary S., born June 15, 1856; died April 12, 1861. John H., died in infancy.

Mary B., born April 24, 1821; died January 15, 1902, in Oxford; unmarried.

Morilla E., born August 10, 1823; died February 5, 1855, in Bainbridge; married Hiram Davis.

Cornelia R., born June 26, 1825; married James Hartwell, who died October 23, 1884, in Oxford. Children: Sarah C., married Delos R. Eells; (children, Mabel C., Marion A., married Clarence Hitt; Juliette, married Chester Bartle; Ruby C.). Morilla, married (1) George Hovey; married (2) Hiram Hovey; married (3) David B. Gordon; (children by first husband, Luella, married Homer Padgett; Frank, married Bertha Gilbert; Ethel M., married Alvin Stead of Guilford). Albert L., unmarried.

Here shall the Press the People's rights maintain,
Unawed by influence and unbribed by gain;
Here patriot Truth her glorious precepts draw,
Pledged to Religion, Liberty and Law.

—STORY.

Journals of Oxford.

During the past ninety-nine years Oxford has had seven distinct journals or newspapers published within its borders. Many made heroic efforts to live, but died in infancy; two or three were merged into other papers and have thus lost their identity.

But one now remains, THE OXFORD TIMES, which in its seventieth year, has nothing of senility in its appearance, but like old wine improves with age. A large increasing circulation proves this to be a positive fact, and its success comes simply because it has reflected the happenings and championed the interests of Oxford and the county of Chenango. As a writer states: "The scrupulousness with which THE TIMES has adhered to the cause of local interests has not always been to its immediate pecuniary advantage, but its publishers have the satisfaction of knowing that its stand is approved by its home advertisers and that it is therein strengthening its foundations for future permanency."

The first journalistic enterprise launched in Oxford saw the light of day in the month of October, 1807. It was owned and edited by John B. Johnson and bore the name of THE CHENANGO PATRIOT. It existed but three or four years, and then died a natural death. The issue of October 17, of that year, contained extracts from the New York Gazette of October 4 and 7. Among other interesting

items were: "By the arrival of the British brig 'Tom Barry,' in the short passage of 36 days from Scotland, the editors of the New York Gazette have received London and Glasgow papers to the 27th of August."

"Pope Pius VII., by the authority of Almighty God, and of the Saints Peter and Paul, has executed sentence of excommunication against the Emperor Napoleon, for want of due reverence to his majesty, and other acts of usurpation and violence."

But notwithstanding all this the village of Oxford was moving on in the full tide of successful settlement. The age of pot and pearl ashes, and black salts, had arrived; and the columns of the President, a village journal that appeared shortly after the Patriot, and soon went hence, published by Theophilus Eaton, announced:

"The trustees of the Associated Presbyterian Society, Uri Tracy, Stephen O. Runyan, and Amos A. Franklin, notwithstanding the rumors of war, and the excommunication of the emperor, will receive subscriptions to the new church, without further delay."

The Oxford Gazette was started in 1814 by Chauncey Morgan, who published it until March 5, 1823, when George Hunt became proprietor. June 23, 1824, Ebenezer Noyes became associated with Mr. Hunt in its publication. In February, 1825, it was sold to Howard & Carlisle, and shortly after Mr. Morgan again became proprietor, who sold to William G. Hyer, in 1826. In September, 1826, Benjamin Corry came into town, from some place south, astride a pair of saddle-bags and riding a very fine gray horse. He was emphatically a business man, and purchased the Gazette, editing it very acceptably for a few years, when the publication was discontinued. Mr. Corry married Leafa Balcom, daughter of Francis Balcom, and

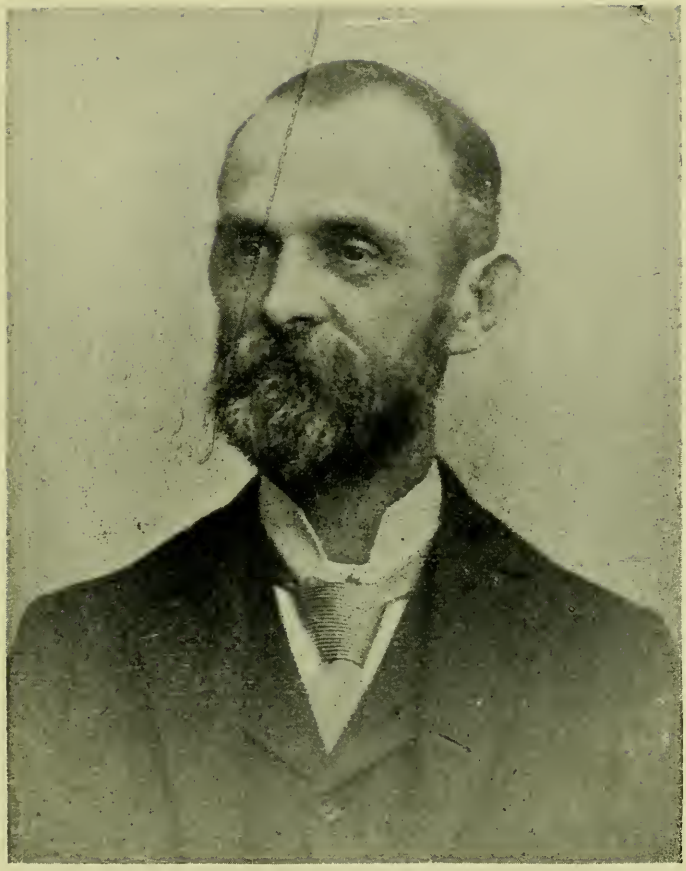
soon after moved to Watertown, N. Y., where he continued his editorial career for several years.

The Chenango Republican was started in 1826 by Benj. Corry, who sold to Daniel Mack and Wm. E. Chapman Dec. 10, 1828, and on Sept. 22, 1830, Daniel Mack became sole proprietor. March 3, 1831, Wm. E. Chapman and T. T. Flagler commenced a new series, and soon after changed its name to the Oxford Republican. In 1838, Mr. Chapman became sole proprietor. During the next few years it was successively published by J. Taylor Bradt, Benj. Welch, Jr., and R. A. Leal. In January, 1843, Charles E. Chamberlain became associated proprietor with Mr. Leal, and in August of the same year Mr. Leal again became editor and proprietor, Wm. M. Lewis doing the printing. R. A. Leal died in January, 1844, and his brother LaFayette became proprietor. In 1847 it was merged with the Norwich Journal, and published as the Chenango Union.

The Chenango Whig was published a short time in 1835, by Denison Smith Clark.

The Miniature, a small monthly, was issued from the same office.

The Oxford Times was founded in the fall of 1836 by a joint stock company, and was for some time conducted by H. H. Cook, a lifetime resident of Oxford. In 1841 it passed into the hands of E. H. Purdy and C. D. Brigham, from whom it was in turn transferred to Waldo M. Potter, in 1844. The following year Judson B. Galpin became associated proprietor with Mr. Potter. In 1848 Mr. Galpin assumed entire control of the paper and continued its publication till his death, February 20, 1893, marking a continuous connection of forty-eight years with The Times. The paper then passed into the hands of his eldest son, Theodore B. Galpin, who has been connected



THEODORE B. GALPIN

with the establishment from early youth. In January, 1894, Mr. Galpin disposed of one-half interest to Wellington Alexander, who retired from the firm in September, 1899, and commenced the publication of the Oxford Press. July 1, 1906, C. Edward Snell, foreman of THE TIMES, purchased the Press and merged it with THE TIMES, under the firm name of Galpin & Snell. THE TIMES was then enlarged to an eight page journal and many improvements made in its make up.

The Oxford Transcript, commenced in 1853 by George N. Carhart, was published about six months.

The Chenango Democrat was commenced November 19, 1863, and published but a short time.

THE FORT HILL HOUSE, a noble looking three-story structure, with large columns in front, and one that would now do credit to any city, which stood on the site of the residence of William M. Miller; together with the store of Rufus Baldwin, hat store of Peleg Glover and cabinet shop of John Y. Washburn, extending nearly to the river, burned on the morning of May 13, 1839, making the largest fire Oxford ever experienced. Charles H. Curtis was proprietor of the house and shortly after the fire went west, finally settling in Chicago at a time when he could count every man in that city. He accumulated a fortune which at one time was estimated at $3,000,000. During the summer of 1885 he lost heavily in speculation, and on January 12, 1886, his lifeless body was found in the lake, and it is supposed that he committed suicide.

The storm is past, but it hath left behind it
Ruin and desolation.
—LONGFELLOW.

Severe Storms.

On Saturday evening, September 17, 1853, a thunder-storm broke upon this part of the Chenango valley. The rain commenced falling at 10 o'clock and poured without cessation until 3 A. M. Sunday morning the river was raised over its banks and swept along, a turbid flood at average high water mark. A good many crops of corn on the low flats were flooded or carried off. Clarke's creek overflowed its banks, filling the Chenango house cellar, and discharged its surplus over LaFayette square into the canal. It put the Maine law in force in Landlord Hamilton's cellar, emptying sundry barrels of liquor and mixing it with rather dirty water. The canal bank gave way near the aqueduct above the village. The Fly Meadow brook, running into the river from the west, near Clarence Miner's, was so high and rapid as to carry off all the bridges above the plank road, and the plank road bridge was so much undermined as to be impassable. All the dams on this creek, except Sheldon's, were swept out as far up as Lewis's in Preston. The shop at Wait & Guernsey's upper dam was carried away, and the dye house at their factory. The Lyon brook carried away all the bridges above the river road, and cut out Bemis's dam. His mill was also injured, and logs and lumber floated off. The Padgett brook swept off Charles Padgett's dam and saw-mill, and four bridges, as well as crops and fences.

And him who, with the steady sledge,
Smites the shrill anvil all day long.
—BRYANT.

William Dunne.

William Dunne, born November 2, 1815, in Kings county, Ireland; died March 6, 1895, in Oxford; married (1), in Ireland, Catherine Pierce, who died February 15, 1850, in Oxford; married (2), in Oxford, Sarah Flanagan, sister of James Flanagan, born March 15, 1822, in Kings county, Ireland; died in 1890, in Oxford.

Mr. Dunne came to New York city in 1847, and the following year to Oxford. Having perfectly learned the trade of a blacksmith, he had no difficulty in finding a position open in the shop of Charles and Fred B. McNeil, where, by honest toil and strict integrity, he remained a number of years. Then desiring a shop of his own he, with his family, moved to South Oxford, where, having hired a shop of Powers & Smith, carriage makers, he did their work and a general blacksmith business besides. In 1857 he purchased a farm in the McNeil neighborhood, where he passed the remainder of his days. Mr. Dunne was a man of indomitable industry and perseverance; a man of thrift, whatever he did was well done. Children by first wife:

MARY, born in Kings county, Ireland; married James Bolger and resides in Norwich. Children: Catherine, William J., James, Henry.

MICHAEL P., born in Kings county, Ireland; married Mary A. Moore in Oxford, whose death occurred February 25, 1906. Followed the trade of his father and successfully conducted business in Tyner and later in Oxford. Now retired and living in the village. In 1903 visited his

birthplace in Ireland and returned with many a rare curio, which, added to the relics and collection of coins already in his possession, makes an interesting exhibit. Children: Sarah E., teaching in New York city; William H., a prominent business man of Norwich; James E., married Alice Flanagan of Smithville Flats and has two children, Dr. Charles M., successfully practicing dentistry in Norwich, and Mary A., engaged for a number of years teaching in Brooklyn, married January 1, 1906, Benjamin W. Moore of Brooklyn.

Patrick H., born in Kings county, Ireland; married Miss Callahan in Detroit, Mich., where he now resides. Has five children.

Children by second wife, all born in Oxford:

Martin J., married in Detroit, where his family resides. Now veterinary surgeon in the Philippines in the employ of the U. S. government. Has three children.

Margaret, married Michael Powers and resides in Oxford. Children: William, married Helen Hogan and has two children; John, Sarah, Martin, Clara, Clarence, Edward, and Nellie.

Agnes, married in Oxford Robert Kahl; born in Germany; died September 29, 1889, in Oxford. Children: Robert and Martin.

Nellie, resides in Oxford. Unmarried.

Catherine, married in Oxford, Joseph Gallagher. Children: William, Thomas Duane, died February 12, 1906, aged 20, Nellie, Theresa, Joseph, and Catherine.

Theresa, married in Oxford, Francis Cullen; died in Preston.

Anna, resided a number of years in New York, now living in Oxford. Unmarried.

The life given us by nature is short; but the memory of a well-spent life is eternal.

—Cicero.

Myron Powers.

Myron Powers, a native of Dutchess county, was a miller in Norwich for several years, until 1843, when he moved to Greene and purchased a farm of 125 acres. After remaining there a term of years he bought a farm in South Oxford, upon which he passed the remainder of his days. Early in life he married Gertrude Willson, and of their nine children six grew to maturity, among whom was Alanson W., a resident of South Oxford.

Alanson W. Powers obtained his mental training in the public schools of Greene and Norwich, and then learned the trade of a wagon maker, and has followed it since. In 1849 he located in South Oxford and began the manufacture of wagons, sleighs and carriages, and in the excellency of his work he soon became well known throughout a large territory of the surrounding country. Mr. Powers has served in official capacities as postmaster, excise commissioner and inspector of election, and advocates the Republican principles of government. In religious belief he is a member of the Baptist church, and is also a member of Oxford Lodge, No. 176, F. & A. M. He married in 1850, Miss Emily Bartoo, daughter of Hiram Bartoo of Greene. Children:

Myron E., born February 1, 1861, in South Oxford; died November 15, 1900, in Oxford; married Jessie Sheldon of Oxford. Children: Percival S., Kathryn A., Kenneth W. Two children died in infancy.

Minnie M., resides at Richmond Hill, N. Y. Unmarried.

Method is the hinge of business and there is no method without order and punctuality.

—HANNAH MOORE.

Robinson Family.

William Robinson came to this country about 1636 and settled at Dorchester, Mass.

His son, Samuel Robinson, married Mary Baker. His son, Rev. John Robinson, graduated at Harvard College in 1695, and was a minister of the church at Duxbury, Mass. He removed to Lebanon, Conn., where he died November 14, 1745. His wife was Hannah Wiswell. Their son, John Robinson, was born April 16, 1715. Died at Bozrah, Ct., August 21, 1784. His wife was Thankful Hinkley. Their son, Samuel Robinson, born June 7, 1752, in Lebanon, Ct., died March 2, 1815, in South Oxford; married * Priscilla Metcalf of Lebanon, Ct., born July 29, 1759; died May 20, 1850, in South Oxford. They first settled at Bozrah, Ct., and removed to Oxford in 1800. Mr. Robinson was a direct descendant of one of the Pilgrim Fathers. On his arrival in Oxford he engaged in farming and milling and became known as a most prosperous farmer. Their children, all born in Lebanon, Ct.:

JOHN WALLACE, born April 5, 1779; lived at Wilkesbarre, Pa.

FAITH, born July 23, 1781; died March 1, 1863, in Oxford. Unmarried.

JABEZ, born April 9, 1783.

ANDREW, born January 20, 1788; probably died in Texas.

DAN HYDE, born October 11, 1795.

* Ancestors of Priscilla Metcalf, who was the wife of Samuel Robinson of Oxford, N. Y.

Michael Metcalf, born in Tatterford, County of Norfolk, England,

Jabez Robinson, son of Samuel and Priscilla (Metcalf) Robinson, removed to South Oxford in 1808. Born of Revolutionary ancestors and in the same year in which was consummated the independence of his country and which saw her take her place among the nations of the earth a recognized power; bred in the stern school of economy which the great struggle had necessitated, and his youthful mind filled with those sterling tales of patriotism which fell from the lips of the heroes who had so lately offered their all upon the altar of their country, he was well prepared for the subsequent scenes and trials of life, as a pioneer in a new and sparsely settled country. In the second great struggle of the then infant country to preserve and to perpetuate the liberties won in the Revolution, he entered the service of his country in the forces raised by his adopted State, was promoted to the rank of brevet Major, and remained until the close of the war.

In 1834 Mr. Robinson was elected sheriff of this county, and in all the various stations which he was called upon to fill from time to time, was faithful, deserving and fully adhering to the tenents of his early education. His farm lay on both sides of the Chenango river, and in the course of time he erected a grist and saw mill. He furnished

being persecuted by Bishop Wren, on account of his religion, emigrated with his wife and nine children, in April, 1637, and settled at Dedham, Mass., in July of that year.

His eldest son, Michael Metcalf, 2d, married Mary Fairbanks of Dedham.

Their second son, Jonathan Metcalf, married Hannah Kenris of Dedham.

Their third son, Ebenezer Metcalf, of Lebanon, Conn., married Hannah Able.

Their second son, Benjamin Metcalf, married Sarah Able.

Their fourth son, Dr. Andrew Metcalf, was born at Lebanon, December 5, 1736. He married Zerviah Hyde, September 20, 1758.

Three of their children became residents of Oxford; namely: Priscilla, the wife of Samuel Robinson. Jabez H., born at Lebanon, August 26, 1761. Married Violata Thomas and died at Oxford. Luke, born at Lebanon, May 4, 1764, married ———— Frink and died November 26, 1856, in Oxford.

employment for the poor, took honest toll, and left a record that was unblemished. His death occurred February 25, 1864, at the age of 81 years. Mr. Robinson married (1) July 10, 1810, Maria Ten Broeck of South Oxford, died April 4, 1818; aged 29 years. Married (2) February 7, 1819, Ann Ten Broeck, sister of first wife; died June 8, 1873, aged 75 years. Children by first wife:

Frances, born October 28, 1812, in South Oxford; died October 19, 1859, in Houston, Texas; married Alvin S. Perkins. Child: Sarah Maria, married Rev. I. W. Tays of El Paso, Texas.

Sarah, born June 15, 1814, in South Oxford; died August 9, 1836, in Norwich. Unmarried.

Mary, born April 28, 1816, in South Oxford; died March 4, 1895, in Salida, Colo.; married June 16, 1832, Calvin Wheelock of New York city. Child: Anna J., married October 18, 1882, Eli W. Ten Broeck, and resides at Salida, Col. Children by second wife:

Samuel M.,born April 25, 1821, in South Oxford.

John W., born March 12, 1823, in South Oxford; died April 27, 1881, in Jackson, Mich.; married Mary Jane Bradford of Huntsville, Ala.

Maria A., born January 14, 1825, in South Oxford; married George Stratton, and resides in South Oxford.

Rev. James A., born March 26, 1827, in South Oxford; died December 17, 1897, in Cortland, N. Y., where he had been for ten years rector of Grace Episcopal church. Was also chaplain of 32d N. Y. S. V. regiment during Civil war. Married Sarah T. Hale of Hornellsville, N. Y.

Perez Packer, born August 5, 1832, in South Oxford; died June 2, 1854, in Jackson, Miss. Unmarried.

Jennie A., born December 13, 1834, in South Oxford; died November 26, 1896, in Tuscaloosa, Ala.; married Tipton Bradford.

CHARLES L., born May 6, 1837, in Norwich; married Virginia Watkins of Huntsville, Ala. Resides in Louisville, Ky.

Dan Hyde Robinson, son of Samuel and Priscilla (Metcalf) Robinson, born October 11, 1798, in Lebanon, Conn., died May 24, 1871, in South Oxford; married Alvira Loomis of Oxford, who died March 21, 1864, in South Oxford. Children:

MARYETTE, died April 6, 1865, in South Oxford; married January 8, 1845, George Stratton of South Oxford.

HARRIET, born December 4, 1825; died March 9, 1893. Married May 16, 1855, Erastus Hill, born January 2, 1826, in Smithville; died February 24, 1885, in South Oxford. Children: Chauncey, married Elizabeth Smith; Nancy, married William Mason; Alvin, married Mary Murdock; Hattie L., died December 4, 1876, aged 15.

LUKE M., born October 10, 1830; died February 9, 1895, in Neenah, Wis.; married September 30, 1858, Maria L. Fish of Oxford. Children: Amy E., born July 30, 1864 in South Oxford; died October 2, 1900, in Neenah, Wis.; Dan A., born April 15, 1866. Residence Menasha, Wis.

ALVIN P., died November 16, 1859, of yellow fever in Houston, Texas, aged 22, unmarried.

FRANCES, born February 15, 1844; died March 4, 1896, in Homer, N. Y.; married September 16, 1868, John A. Flagg. Children: Mary A., married Manley H. Daniels of Homer; Nettie, married Fred Newcomb, of Homer.

Samuel M. Robinson, son of Jabez and Ann (Ten Broeck) Robinson, born April 25, 1821, in South Oxford; died December 15, 1896, in South Oxford; married February 22, 1848, Sarah A. Brown of New Berlin, who died December 7, 1904, in South Oxford. Mr. Robinson received his education in Oxford Academy, and after leaving that institution returned to the home farm where he spent

his entire life. He engaged in agricultural pursuits and also conducted a saw and grist mill. He was an honest man of sterling integrity, highly respected by his townsmen, and had held many public offices of trust, among which were supervisor, Justice of the Peace, and highway commissioner. Children:

EMOGENE, married Dr. Warren Scott of Cromwell, Ind.; died August 7, 1891, in South Oxford.

MARGARET W., died December 25, 1862, aged 12.

MARY J., married Albert Tremaine, resides in Greene.

SARAH L., twin to above, married Dr. DeWitt Hitchcock; died February 11, 1897, in Long Island City, N. Y.

FRANCES A., married Edward Robinson of Greene; died September 13, 1880.

ARCHER, adopted son, married Clara Ives of Afton. Resides on the old homestead.

CENSUS 1834.—We copy from a sheet, soiled by age, upon which was taken the "Census of the village of Oxford, on the first day of January, 1834," by Henry R. Mygatt, Esq., and Judge Samuel McKoon:

Forty-four families on the East side of the river containing 469 inhabitants, 221 males, 248 females.

Sixty-six families on the West side of the river containing 441 inhabitants, 234 males, 207 females.

One hundred and ten families, 910 inhabitants, 455 males, 455 females.

Twenty-eight more inhabitants on the East than on the West side of the river.

Statistics of the town of Oxford.—Five ministers of the gospel: Rev. Leverett Bush, Episcopalian; Rev. James Abell, Presbyterian; Revs. Washington Kingsley and Elisha B. Spaarks, Baptist; Rev. Henry Halstead, Methodist.

Att'ys at Law.—Henry VanDerLyn, Henry Mygatt, James Clapp, Samuel McKoon.

M. G. McKoon, Principal of Oxford Academy, Elizabeth C. Merwin, Preceptress.

One oil mill, 1 woolen factory, 12 saw-mills, 3 grist-mills, 1 iron foundry, 3 tanneries.

He strove among God's suffering poor
One gleam of brotherhood to send.

—LOWELL.

James Flanagan.

James Flanagan was born in the year 1816 in Armath, Ireland, and came to Oxford in 1848 with his young wife, Anne Troy, and infant daughter, Mary. He soon found employment in the blacksmith shop of Wilmot Roberts, where he remained several years, and then entered into business for himself, having a shop near his residence on Greene street. Mr. Flanagan was the first Irishman who came to Oxford to reside, and Father James Hourigan, of Binghamton, once said of him that he was the corner stone of Catholicism in Chenango county. Previous to the erection of St. Joseph's church services were held at his residence, where the first mass in town was celebrated. Mr. Flanagan was a friend in need to many of his countrymen on their arrival in town, who usually came in by canal and landed here perfect strangers. Often he took them, sometimes an entire family, to his home where they remained until he found employment for them in the community. In 1871 Mr. Flanagan became a contractor at the time of the construction of the O. & W. railroad, then called the Midland, but the venture proved disastrous and he lost heavily. About twenty years previous to his death Mr. Flanagan lost his eyesight, but his cheerful heart and disposition were unchanged, and uncomplaining he groped his way about the streets of the village having a pleasant greeting for all. Mr. Flanagan died June 11, 1891, and his faithful and loving wife followed him to the better

land six months later, her death occurring January 2, 1892. Children:

MARY, married Daniel Duggan, and resides in Newark, N. J.

ELLEN, unmarried, resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

CATHERINE, married Edward Dockery, and resides in Orange, N. J.

THERESA, married John Porn, and is the only member of the family residing in Oxford.

ANNA, married Patrick Byrne of Norwich.

MARGARET, married Thomas Dugan, and resides in Orange, N. J.

JOHN J., married Anna Byrne, and resides in Norwich.

BUSINESS FIRMS IN 1835.—Among those who were doing business in this town during the year 1835 we find the following list in the "Chenango Whig, and Miscellaneous Journal," published in this village by Denison Smith Clark, dated March 6. It reads, "Synopsis of the Yearly Advertisers to the Whig":

Elisha Bishop, Dry Goods, Groceries, &c. Fort Hill Buildings.
Benjamin Butler, President of Agricultural Society. East side of the river.
J. S. & F. R. Clark, Variety Store. Fort Hill Buildings.
Clark and Balcom, Dry Goods, Groceries, &c. Adjoining Clarke's Hotel.
Joel Chapin, Cabinet maker. East side of the River.
Horace Dresser, Law Office. 4 Fort Hill Buildings.
James Durham, Coach Maker. On the West side of the River.
A. A. Franklin & Co., Chenango Foundry. East side of the River.
Seth H. Fisk, W. I. Goods Store. Checkered Building west side of the River.
Dr. DeForest, Physician and Surgeon. Fort Hill Buildings.
William Gile, Clothing Emporium. East side of the River.
William Mygatt, Leather Store. East side of the River.
Newkirk & Miller, Dry Goods, Groceries, &c. Exchange Buildings.
Perkins & VanWagenen, Dry Goods, Groceries, Drugs, &c. East side of the River.
Rouse & Perkins, Druggists, &c. Exchange Buildings.
Charles Perkins, Tailoring store. West side of the River.
Gardner Stratton, Hat Store. Fort Hill Buildings.
J. Y. Washburn & Co., Chair manufacturers. East side of the River.
Ira Wilcox, Dry Goods, Groceries, &c. Fort Hill Buildings.

Everyone is the son of his own works.
—CERVANTES.

Cyrus M. Gray.

Cyrus M. Gray, born in McDonough, June 7, 1826, removed to Oxford, April, 1828. Married November 22, 1850, Derinda Lincoln of Horseheads, N. Y., born February 6, 1829, and died April 7, 1896, in Oxford. Two children, Ella L., married Rev. Edwin J. Brownson August 7, 1879. Edward Cyrus, died October 20, 1896, married Maude Potter of Cooperstown.

Cyrus M. Gray attended school at Oxford Academy, and when 19 taught in what was known as the Stone schoolhouse, receiving $10 a month and boarding around—two nights to a scholar. This was before the time of steel pens. Part of the work of the teacher was to make the quill pens for seventy scholars. On September 20, 1846, he began clerking for Cyrus Tuttle, remained with him for four years, when on April 1, 1850, with Derick Race, he went into the grocery business in the Corner Store, at that time owned by Joshua Root. After six months he sold out to Mr. Race and bought the Packer drug store. In 1851 he went into business at Cannonsville, N. Y., where he remained until 1855, and then returned to Oxford and bought what is known as the Tower farm, and farmed it for four years. In 1860, with William B. Race, he bought the Corner Store, now occupied by Baldwin & Mead, and opened a dry goods and grocery business. After one

year John R. Wheeler bought out Mr. Race and for ten years the business was successfully carried on under the name of Gray & Wheeler. In 1871 they sold the goods and leased the store to Tower & Morley, and for two years carried on business across the street, in the store now occupied by Rector Youmans as a meat market; when Mr. Wheeler removed to Chicago and failing health led Mr. Gray to purchase and build what has been since 1874 the homestead. After a rest he clerked two years for Clarke Bros. and five years for Skinner Bros. in the Corner Store. In 1877 Mr. Gray bought out Skinner Bros. and again took up business at the old stand, where he continued until 1891, and then retired to his homestead. Politically Mr. Gray is a staunch Republican, and voted for the first time for President in 1848 for Van Buren, and voted for the first Republican President when the party was started and at every presidential election until the last, when he was out of the State, making thirteen presidents. Religiously he is a Baptist, uniting with the church when fifteen years of age, and ever since has been identified with every department of the work. Mr. Gray is now residing with his daughter, Mrs. Brownson, in Centralia, Ill.

And the maize-field grew and ripened,
Till it stood in all the splendor
Of its garments green and yellow.

—LONGFELLOW.

Benjamin Butler.

Benjamin Butler, who owned the farm on State street known as the Corn Hill farm, now the property of George B. Fletcher, was a son of Dr. Benjamin and Diadama (Hyde) Butler of Norwich, Conn., where he was born January 30, 1764. He married Hannah Avery of Groton.

They settled at New London, Conn., and afterwards removed to New York city, where he carried on the business of a broker for many years. In 1806 they came to Oxford.

Mr. Butler was one of the founders of St. Paul's Episcopal church in this village, and occupied a house on the site of the present church edifice in 1807-8. Later he occupied a residence on Merchant street, and then for a year or so the old mansion, later known as the McKoon house. From here he removed to the farm above mentioned, and became extensively engaged in sheep raising, and buying and selling land. At his death, which occurred January 15, 1839, the hills surrounding the village were covered with sheep owned by him and let out to various parties to keep. Having large landed possessions, a great many people were in his employ. Mr. Butler read medicine and practiced for a short time. He was called to see a man, but his treatment of the case was so unsuccessful that the patient nearly died, and Dr. Butler then and there gave up the profession. Hannah Avery Butler, his wife, died August 1, 1829, aged 58. Children:

Benjamin, who died in infancy.

Julia H.. born at New London, Conn., June 13, 1794; married James Clapp; died November 17, 1832.

Mary D., born at New London, Conn., January 8, 1797; died December 12, 1881, in Utica; married Nicholas Devereaux of Utica. They had six children, the eldest daughter, Hannah, married Hon. Francis Kernan of that city.

Elizabeth, third daughter, died in infancy.

Cornelia Ann, born at New York, March 1, 1806; married William C. Pierpont of Pierpont Manor, N. Y. They had six children.

Elizabeth Hannah, youngest daughter, born at New York, February 19, 1813. She was unmarried, and lived

many years, until her death, March 18, 1883, upon the old farm with Mr. Warren Eaton, as manager.

Mr. Butler was a very dark skinned man, though of a fine commanding presence. He owned a colored boy as a part of his personal property, as in those days New York was a slave state. One day he sent the boy to a store for a corn basket he had bought, and told him to have it marked with his initials, "B. B." The basket was brought home unmarked, the boy had played on the way and forgotten that part of his errand, so he was sent back and cautioned not to return until he brought it duly marked with his master's initials. When in the course of an hour he returned there were seven Bs conspicuously displayed on the basket. His master discovering the surplus initials exclaimed:

"You black rascal, what did you have so many for?"

The boy, with a broad grin, answered: "Massa, it means 'Black Ben Butler's Black Boy's Bushel Basket!'"

No legacy is so rich as honesty.
—SHAKESPEARE.

James Walker.

Among the heroic men who came to this town at an early date, and who witnessed its development, enduring toil and hardships without murmur or complaint, and succeeding, were able to pass the sunset of life in peace and quiet, was James Walker. He was born May 30, 1788, and died January 17, 1864. He married April 3, 1806, Jane Padgett, whose parents came from England. She

was born July 8, 1790, and died April 16, 1872. Children:

JANE, born June 28, 1807; died May 21, 1881.

LOVISA, born August 6, 1809; died May 24, 1899; married (1) Porter Bingham; married (2) Nathan Bailey, a veteran of the Mexican war.

NICHOLAS, born July 11, 1811; died October 2, 1893; married May 5, 1836, Lydia Mowry, of Oxford. Lived and died on the farm where he was born.

JAMES, born June 5, 1814; died October 4, 1853; married Phoebe Carhart.

WILLIAM, born December 27, 1816; died April 1, 1871; married Zeurah Mowry.

SARAH, born April 15, 1819; died April 13, 1885; married William Beardsley.

HANNAH, born December 29, 1821; living in Iowa; married Helam Barstow.

WILLIS, born April 19, 1824; died June 4, 1892; married Mary Ann Bowers.

DANIEL, born April 12, 1827; died December 13, 1903; married (1) Frances Adelia Main; died February 19, 1864; married (2) Eliza Parker.

JULIA, born August 14, 1829; died March 30, 1887; married George Lamphere.

WILLARD, born March 5, 1832; died June 26, 1893; married Hannah Mary Main, born August 24, 1834; died January 12, 1904.

My voice is still for war.
Gods! can a Roman senate long debate
Which of the two to choose, slavery or death?

—ADDISON.

Throop Family.

Major Dan Throop, a native of Connecticut, and for many years a resident of Hudson, N. Y., came to Oxford

in 1800. He was for a time proprietor of the hotel, now known as the Hotchkiss House, and for many years a merchant in this village. When in possession of his health and vigor he was a useful citizen and an active officer in his civil and military capacity. The disease which terminated his life was of several months standing, in which period he was a great sufferer. A soldier of the Revolution, he met sickness and death with characteristic firmness and resignation. He died at his residence on Fort Hill, May 19, 1824, and was buried in the old cemetery on State street. Mary, his widow, also a native of Connecticut, died at Nineveh, N. Y., October 13, 1843.

Simon Gager Throop, born at Kinderhook, N. Y., January 4, 1790, came from Hudson with his father, Major Dan Throop, in 1800. He was for a time a student, afterwards a partner, of Henry Van Der Lyn, Esq., and was the first lawyer that practiced in Bainbridge. For several years he was a member in the family of Martin Van Buren, with whom he also studied law, and became quite a successful criminal lawyer.

A member of "the Unadilla Hunt, or Oxford Chase," he became very popular with the masses. He married September 4, 1814, Asenath Burr, daughter of Theodore Burr, the famous bridge builder, who died in Scranton, Pa., October 18, 1877, aged 85. Mr. Throop had a residence on Fort Hill, near the site of the Memorial library, with an office near by, which was the headquarters for the citizens on particular occasions to discuss politics and on Saturday evenings to amuse themselves with cards and dice. Chauncey Morgan, Gen. Peter Sken Smith, and many others took part in these convivial sessions.

Mr. Throop's social qualities were of the most brilliant and genial order. Unrivalled in wit, humor and caricature, he was the life and soul of the social circle,

and "kept the table in a roar" wherever his mobile and expressive countenance appeared. When the strife between Oxford and Norwich over the county seat was in progress he was sent to Albany as a lobby member in the interest of Oxford. When he returned the citizens gave him a reception, which was held in the afternoon and evening at the residence of Chauncey Morgan. A numerous company of ladies and gentlemen assembled, and among the good things prepared for the feast was a large turkey, and in some way it fell to Mr. Throop to do the carving. Taking off his coat and rolling up his sleeves he seized the carving knife and fork and went to work, at the same time keeping the company in good humor by his witty jokes. The carving finished, he wiped his fingers with a napkin, put on his coat and striking a parliamentary attitude, said: "Gentlemen and ladies, I submit this subject to your immediate consideration," which was received with great laughter and applause.

Mrs. Chauncey Morgan, assisted by her sister, Mrs. Samuel S. Sherwood and Miss Harriet Bessac, of French descent, and Mrs. Throop, a lady of splendid appearance, richly dressed and wearing a profusion of jewelry, did the honors and lent their vivacity to the pleasures of the evening. At a late hour the reception came to a close.

Under the first constitution of our State, in 1818, Mr. Throop was member of Assembly from Chenango county. His associates in that assembly were Tilly Linde, then of Sherburne, and Perez Randall of Norwich, for many years a popular county clerk. From June, 1818, to April, 1822, Mr. Throop was district attorney of the county. The early records of St. Paul's church for more than ten years from 1816 are inscribed by him as secretary. In 1832 he left Oxford, and in 1871, at the age of 82, was appointed Associate Judge of Monroe county, Pennsylvania. He died

in Stroudsburg, that State, February 17, 1877. Mrs. Throop died in Scranton, October 18, 1877, aged 85. Mary Gager, their only daughter, married Edward L. Wolf of Honesdale, Pa.

Col. Benjamin Throop, with wife and daughter, came to Oxford from Kinderhook, N. Y., in 1818, at the urgent request of his son, Major Throop, to spend the remainder of his days among relatives. His health was poorly and mind impaired, and at the age of 80 years his death occurred at the home of his grandson on Fort Hill, May 16, 1822. In 1776, he led a hundred warriors of the Mohigan tribe to Canada, who chiefly fell in that unfortunate campaign victims to the enemy and smallpox. Subsequently he received a commission of captain in the line and was eventually promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel of the Fourth Connecticut regiment. He was ordered by Washington to protect New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and served under Sullivan and Putnam through the war until peace prevailed. He was present and fought in the battles of Long Island, White Plains, Saratoga and Monmouth, and also in many severe conflicts with the Indians. The name of Washington never failed to lighten a smile on his cheek and his eye for a moment would resume its original brightness. Col. Throop was buried with honors due to his rank and service, it being the first military funeral in the county. An appropriate sermon was preached by Rev. Leverett Bush, D. D., rector of St. Paul's church. The body was escorted to the grave by Capt. Wheeler's company of artillery, Capt. Smith's militia, soldiers of the Revolution, many in the uniform of officers, and a large concourse of citizens of Oxford and from every town in the county. The procession was headed by muffled drums with solemn music, and a horse with military saddle and bear skin holsters, and spurred boots fastened to the

stirrups, led by a colored man. During the march to the old cemetery on State street minute guns were fired by the artillery. After the commitment service had been read the militia fired six volleys over the grave. Leaving the cemetery the dead march was changed to the familiar strains of Yankee Doodle, to which air the procession quickened its pace and made a much quicker trip back to the house on Fort Hill.

Dr. Benjamin Throop, son of Major Dan Throop, was born November 9, 1811, in Oxford. Educated at the Academy he was a student with Horatio Seymour, Ward Hunt, Charlemagne Tower, Henry R. Mygatt, and many others who in later life became noted throughout the State and country. Dr. Throop went to Scranton in the early days of that city, and investing in coal lands he became wealthy and was prominently identified with the city's growth and interests. He became president of the Scranton City Bank, and also of the Scranton Illuminating, Heat and Power Company. His death occurred in that city June 26, 1897. He married in 1842 Miss A. F. McKinney of Schuylkill, Pa. Children:

Mary Eliza. Residence, Scranton.
Eugene Romayne, died in 1852.
Benjamin Henry, died in 1851.
William Bigler, died in 1852.
George Scranton, died in 1894.

Greater than genius, greater than power, greater than riches, is the ability to pour out one's life for the uplifting of others.
—Clayton S. Cooper.

Henry Mygatt.

Henry Mygatt, son of Noadiah and Clarissa (Lynde) Mygatt of New Milford, Conn., came to Oxford in 1806,

pursuing for a few years the occupation of a saddler. Afterwards he engaged in mercantile business for several years in company a portion of the time with his brother William, and brother-in-law, Austin Hyde. He finally transferred the business to his son-in- law, John Donnelly, who continued it till failing health compelled him to relinquish an active life. The firm occupied a building which stood on the corner south of Washington Park. It then adjoined the residence of Joseph E. Packard, and was used many years by Dr. William G. Sands as an office. Mr. Mygatt was born November 7, 1783, in New Milford, Conn., and died May 5, 1835, in Oxford. He married (1) in 1809, Sarah S. Washburn of Oxford, who died September 26, 1818, in Meredith, N. Y. Married (2) Mrs. Susan Hosmer of Connecticut. Children by first wife:

Henry R., born April 10, 1810, in Oxford; died March 31, 1875, in Oxford.

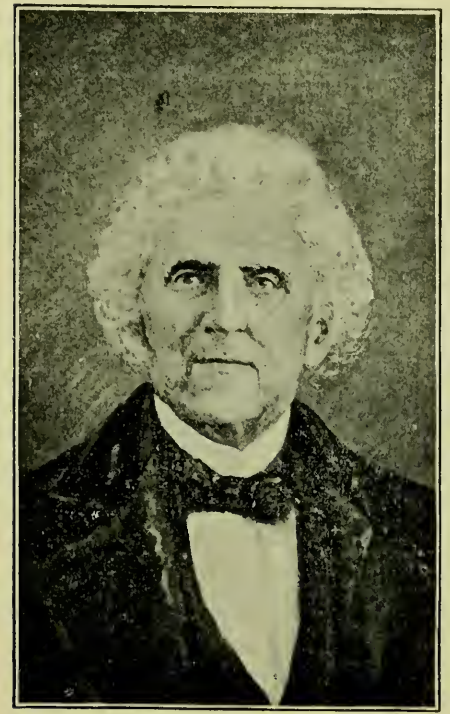
Orlando N., born August 24, 1812, in Oxford; died August 17, 1827, in Oxford.

Clarissa A., married (1) John Donnelly, who died October 30, 1838; married (2) Frederick A. Sands; died August 16, 1886, in Unadilla.

Sarah E., married Dr. William G. Sands.

Mr. Mygatt had three children by his second wife, all of whom died in infancy.

Henry R. Mygatt, son of Henry and Sarah (Washburn) Mygatt, prepared for college at Oxford Academy, then in charge of David L. Prentice, and graduated at Union College in 1830. Soon thereafter he commenced the study of law in the office of James Clapp, and was admitted at Albany in 1833. His professional toils and successes covered a long term of practice in all the courts of this State, as well as in the Supreme Court of the United States. He was greatly beloved and respected for his excellence of



HENRY R. MYGATT



JAMES W GLOVER

character, was highly benevolent, his heart and hand were always open to whatever concerned the welfare of the community. Great as were his benefactions they were not bounded by the limits of his own town. He was not an aspirant for public office, and invariably declined all nominations therefor. He held successively the office of secretary, vice-president, and president of Oxford Academy for a number of years. During that time he strengthened it with his counsels, his labors, and with repeated and munificent gifts, placing during a portion of the time at its disposal free tuitions for worthy and needy scholars. To St. Paul's church he was also a bountiful benefactor, to which its records bear testimony. Mr. Mygatt received from Hobart College the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, a designation well and worthily bestowed, and was one of the corporators named in the act of Congress which created the Centennial Board of Finance for the International celebration of the hundredth anniversary of American Independence. Mr. Mygatt married December 2, 1835, Esther Maria Tracy, daughter of Hon. John Tracy, who died June 25, 1895, in New York city. Children:

John Tracy, born November 29, 1836; married August 28, 1861, Mary Stevens, daughter of Hon. Daniel S. Dickinson, of Binghamton. After passing his Freshman year at Hamilton College, Mr. Mygatt, second term Sophomore, entered Union, from which he was graduated in class of '58, being one of the Commencement speakers. While in Union he was a member of the Adelphi Literary Society, and held the office of President. He was admitted to the Bar in 1861, and located in Binghamton; but after a few years' practice, finding this occupation too sedentary, abandoned it for the paper trade, and for many years was established in Duane street, New York city. He held at one time the office of President of the Binghamton Council

of the Union League of America; was also District Deputy, founded several councils of the organization, and was secretary of a large and important meeting of the League held soon after the draft riots of 1863 in New York. Mr. Mygatt is a Son of the Revolution, a Free Mason, and also a member of the Psi Upsilon fraternity. He is a graceful and earnest speaker and wields the pen of a ready writer.

Child: D. S. Dickinson, born May 9, 1864, in Binghamton; died February 3, 1888, in New York city. Married Minnie H., daughter of Nicholas D. Clapp of New York city. (Children: daughter, Tracy Dickinson; son, Henry R.).

HENRY, died May 29, 1842, aged one year.

WILLIAM R., born April 20, 1851; married September 6, 1876, Agnes P., daughter of Andrew J. Hull of Oxford. Now residing at Chicago.

MAI, married September 27, 1881, James A. Brown. Residence, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Along the cool sequester'd vale of life,
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.

—GRAY.

Whittenhall Family.

William Whittenhall, formerly spelled Wettenhall, an Englisman and a tailor by trade, came from Albany and built a frame house below the village in which he kept tavern for many years. The building is still standing and is the one next below the farm house of O. M. Westover. Mr. Whittenhall moved in 1808 to Smithville and subsequently to McDonough, where he died April 2, 1848, aged 89. He had three sons, all born in Oxford:

URI, born in 1805, conducted a bakery in Oxford in 1829. He removed to Greene previous to 1850 and purchased the Chenango House in that village, which he conducted for a long term of years, and became personally known to the traveling public from the days of the stage coach to those of the railway car. Mr. Whittenhall died December 29, 1887, in Greene. Harriet, his wife died March 8, 1879, aged 71. Children:

SARAH JANE, married (1) James E. Thurber; married (2) John G. Brown of Utica, where she now resides.

HENRY F., married August 30, 1860, Arabella J. Race of Greene.

OTIS, married Eliza Kathan, and had many descendants in Steuben county.

ELIHU, born in 1808, was interested in the bakery with his brother Uri. He died at Sabetha, Kan., December 1, 1881. Married Eliza A. Shumway, who died August 23, 1866, at Albany, Kan., aged 57. Their eldest son, Captain Daniel S. Whittenhall, died at the Soldiers' Home in Danville, Ill., November 27, 1904. He was born in Oxford, June 12, 1829, where his boyhood days were spent and his education obtained in the Academy. In early manhood he went West and at the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion, enlisted April 19, 1861, claiming the distinction of being the first volunteer to be sworn into the service, a claim that was well borne out by a documentary letter that appeared in the Topeka, Kansas, *Mail,* December 11, 1901. Captain Whittenhall served three months with the First Illinois Cavalry and was captured with Col. Mulligan's men at Lexington, Mo., in September, 1861. Later he was made Captain of Co. E, Second Kansas Cavalry, and served until January 1, 1863, when he was discharged for disability.

I can't but say it is an awkward sight
To see one's native land receding through
The growing waters.
—Byron.

Freshet of 1842.

We copy a description of the freshet of February 5, 1842, contributed to the "Mirror," a paper read before the Ladies' Conversational Society at that time. The water gods are supposed to have played many mad pranks with buildings and vegetables, also floating off a slaughter-house.

Such a sight as greeted the vision on last Friday morning seldom meets the ken of habitants resident within our little vale. From hill to hill, with the exception of a few favored spots, occupied by some, who, more fortunate than their neighbors, had become somewhat elevated in the world, one vast sheet of water met the eye. Its surface covered with masses of floating ice and timber, with here and there a boat endeavoring to rescue from the embracing flood some portion of its spoils. Old Neptune had taken possession of the valley; the water gods were holding a jubilee and, 'mid their revelry, strange pranks they played us poor mortals. One of their mad freaks was to gift with power of locomotion fields of ice, miles of fences, scores of barns, bridges, and things inanimate, too numerous to mention, and these latter, apparently right well pleased, eagerly sought to exercise their newly acquired faculties, without regard to the care and attention which had been bestowed upon them by those to whom they had heretofore been faithful servants; indeed, several barns were guilty of a breach of trust and Swartouted * with the people's deposits to parts unknown. One, also, of which a better example might have been expected, it having been located within a stone's throw of a sanctuary, has committed a grievous act of trespass by occupying, without license, a portion of an adjoining meadow. These same mischievous personages have had the bare-facedness to enter in a sly way the cellars of some of our most notable house-wives, and, without regard to the loss and inconvenience occasioned thereby, have upset pork barrels and pickle tubs, made beef

* Swartout was one of the earliest New York defaulters and absconders.

fresh, which once was salted, set ashes to leaching, before the old ladies had dreamed of making soap, used the latter article by the barrel, whenever they had occasion to wash their hands, prepared a cold bath for the old gentleman who was in the nightly habit of drawing the spiggot from the cider barrel, and, as for pumpkins and onions, boxes and casks, these fresh water imps turned their *heads* completely. They were all in motion, elbowing this one, nodding to that, cross over here, right and left there. It was a most hetrogeneous assemblage. Here might be seen a spruce squash offering his crook to a matronly pumpkin; there an onion endeavoring to draw tears from the already pink eyes of a potato; here a cabbage with head downcast and countenance suffused with tears; and still another with head erect viewing with dismay the riotous acts of his sauce-y brethren. Apples with blushing cheeks, beets that looked as if the scene had caused a rush of blood to the head; despairing parsnips, as yellow as if in the last stage of the jaundice; aristocratic carrots, red with rage at being thus unceremoniously jostled by the crowd; turnips, which, if their countenances were any indication of their feelings, felt flat; in short, many a pale faced esculent was placed in a position not to be coveted, and which would have brought a blush to their cheeks, had they not had so many companions in their misery. It may well be said that such a row among the occupants of basement stores has not been kicked up this many a day. But cellars were not alone the scene of their labors; many a proud tree, that had reared his crest on high for ages, and spread his protecting branches far and wide, was by their agency uprooted, prostrated and borne along by the resistless flood, with scarce time allowed for saying,

> What oft is said,
> To me it seems I have a swimming within my head.

The shrine, on which many a fatling had poured out its life current, together with its blood-stained walls and floors, as trees came against it astride chargers of ice gave way with a crash, and far above the din of the elements, was heard a voice saying, "I can't stand the pressure of these times." "Make thy escape," said the barn to the horse, "for every joint in my frame speaks of approaching disconnection, and warns me that soon I, like my neighbor, must be added to the amount of floating capital." See that being yonder, with countenance most rueful, and altered mien, the whilom occupant of that vast domicile, located below the arches that span the noble river. Hear him exclaim, "Othello's occupation is gone, and now is the discontent of my winter made perfect." Alas! poor fellow, these intermeddlers had given his wheels an overdose of cold water; and for the time being he is deprived of the privilege of putting his hands into his neighbor's meal-bags. And hark! what sounds are those that salute the ear, borne by the winds across the troubled waters? Ah, 'tis an unavailing cry for help from a band of fugitives attempting to escape the water-spirits' cold embrace. Vain hope, useless endeavor; their agent, the flood surrounds and overwhelms them; they sink and sink to rise once more—a mass of wool and mutton.

No reckoning made, but sent to my account
With all my imperfections on my head.
—SHAKESPEARE.

Death of a Burglar.

A series of daring burglaries were perpetrated in the Chenango valley in May, 1862. Hamilton, Earlville and Norwich were successfully visited within three nights by the bold intruders, who gathered in several watches and considerable cash. As the burglars followed the telegraph line down the valley, messages were sent ahead, warning the people of the probabilities of a visit from the unwelcome guests. Not much attention was paid to the warning by the several localities except Oxford, when on Tuesday night, June 3, watchmen were stationed on several streets. Shortly after 2 A. M., a mysterious individual made his appearance in front of the residence of J. B. Galpin on Clinton street, and when accosted by Selah H. Fish as to his business and destination, said his name was Jones and represented himself as on the way to Chenango Forks to take charge of a canal boat. He was armed with a crutch and a cane, and affected the cripple. The watch, like a good Samaritan, kindly offered him accommodations for the night, which he seemed inclined to accept, but when near F. G. Clarke's residence he bade farewell to crutch, cane, overcoat and attendant and started on a keen run towards Fort Hill, passing Jack Coats on the canal bridge. The latter being unable to stop the supposed burglar threw a club at him as he disappeared in the direction of the river.

Early Monday morning, June 9, persons passing over the river bridge discovered the body of a man floating from

above, which was secured and Coroner T. J. Bailey of Norwich summoned. The facts in brief elicited by the examination before the jury were, that the body had been about one week in the water, and was that of a man apparently between 35 and 40 years of age, of strong muscular development. On his right shoulder blade was a bruise apparently recent, on his left leg above the knee was a slight wound, which might have been caused by a small bullet or blunt instrument, and through his pants was a hole corresponding thereto. On the fore leg below the knee was a bad bruise tied with a silk handkerchief. The property, other than clothing, found upon the body were two pocket knives, a pair of lady's rubber shoes, a railway guide, a map of New York, a six-shooter, loaded, a pair of hollow forceps, well adapted to turning keys in doors, two gold watches, one recognized by Mr. Samuel Hammond, as but a short time before taken from his room at the Noyes House, Norwich, money in current bills, $495, and coin in amount about $18. Among the coin was a piece much worn, recognized by Mr. Hammond as having been in his possession as a pocket piece for more than fifteen years. Paint was discovered on the soles of the rubbers similar in color to that with which the stairway of the Noyes House had recently been painted. A promissory note, as follows, completed the list:

FACTORYVILLE, Feb. 1, 1862.

$100.—Due Dr. Johnson, or bearer, One Hundred Dollars, borrowed money.

(Signed,) C. C. & W. BROOKS.

The hands of the watches had been arrested at a little past two o'clock. The attending circumstances furnished strong evidence that this was the same person, or one of a party, who had committed the burglaries up the valley, and was afterwards seen at night in the streets of our

village. Evidently he had crossed the bridge, jumped the fence and run up the east bank of the river into the cove. Without the intervention of judge or jury, or the law's delay, the quiet waters of the Chenango sealed his fate.

A few days later, a lady accompanied by a gentleman, came to our village and made inquiry concerning the drowned man. She came from Factoryville and had been married about four months previously to Dr. Johnson. He had been absent three weeks from home and was last heard from at Syracuse. With much feeling she described the overcoat and other articles of the deceased with considerable accuracy. After remaining a short time she left town, apparently well persuaded that she had discovered the truth of her husband's death. The body was buried in the old cemetery on State street, and a stone with a plain inscription marked the grave.

And while a paltry stipend earning,
He sows the richest seeds of learning.

—Lloyd.

David Fiske.

David Fiske was born in Temple, N. H., in 1797, came to this town and settled in East Oxford on a farm in 1820, where he did well his part in prostrating the forest and turning the wilderness into fruitful fields. He and his wife often went to Jericho, now Bainbridge, on horseback, following a path through the heavy timber marked by blazed trees. For a man of his time he was well educated and taught district school for ten winters, also devoted

much time to teaching music. For several terms he held the office of Justice of Peace, and his decisions were impartial and wise. His death occurred November 26, 1880, in Oxford. His wife was Millie Sheldon, whom he married in Temple, N. H. Her death occurred March 13, 1884, at the age of 86 years. Children, all born in Oxford: Lucy, married Charles Peacock of Norwich; Mary, died in early childhood; Abigail, married George Carhart, of Oxford; Lydia, married Chauncey Barstow of Oxford; Horace, remained on the old homestead. Married (1) Martha Padgett; married (2) Emma Jones; Emily, married Joseph Estabrook, now resides in Oxford, and only survivor of the family.

His daily prayer, far better understood in acts than words, was simply doing good.

—WHITTIER.

Pendleton Family.

Nathan Pendleton and Amelia Babcock, his wife, of Quaker stock, came to Norwich from Stonington, Conn., soon after 1800. They settled on the east side of the Chenango river, about three miles below the village, and his land lay on both sides of the stream. They brought with them seven children, three girls and four boys, leaving five in Connecticut.

Isaac, one of the sons, was born January 16, 1781, in Westerly, R. I., and died November 3, 1843, in Oxford. He married, in 1808, Bridget Stanton of Stonington, Conn., whose death also occurred in Oxford. Mr. Pendleton purchased a farm at Lyon Brook, which is still known

by his name, and moved April 7, 1820, upon it with his family. His wife and son Nathan, then but three weeks old, making the journey upon a bed placed in a wagon. Children:

Amelia, married Harry Hull of Oxford.

Lydia Ann, married Daniel H. Richmond; died in Norwich.

Isaac, died in infancy.

Mary, died in infancy.

Rhoda, married (1) Ormund Richmond; married (2) Benjamin B. Hewitt.

Nathan, married Mrs. Elizabeth (Packer) Pellett.

Jane, married Albert G. Ayer; died August 6, 1894, in Preston, Conn.

Sarah, married Charles R. Breed; died December 19, 1905, in Norwich.

Stanton, married Amanda Malvina White; died in 1905 at Norwich.

Henry, married Helen Cary; died in Nebraska City.

Nathan Pendleton, son of Isaac and Bridget (Stanton) Pendleton, was born March 17, 1820, in Norwich, N. Y., and came to Oxford with his parents when but three weeks old. He married May 22, 1845, Mrs. Elizabeth (Packer) Pellett of Norwich, born April 5, 1820; died March 18, 1890, in Oxford. Mr. Pendleton received his preliminary education in a district school, after which he took a course in Oxford Academy and DeRuyter Institute. Remaining on his father's farm until 1849, he purchased the property a mile south of the village, on the east side of the river, which he still occupies, active and energetic. Mr. Pendleton is a leading agriculturist of the county, and is a fair example of the kind of men who have contributed so largely to the growth and substantial prosperity of the town. Children:

ELIZABETH PACKER, died June 9, 1887, in Norwich, N. Y., aged 41; married Captain Robert A. Stanton of Norwich, born April 29, 1838; died September 5, 1886, in Norwich. Captain Stanton was educated at the Norwich and Oxford academies, and in 1859 commenced the study of law in Oxford with Horace Packer, and subsequently pursued it under Dwight H. Clarke. He was among the early enlisted soldiers of the Civil war, having joined Sickles's brigade in June, 1861. Through promotion, he became quartermaster-sergeant of the 74th N. Y. V., second lieutenant and captain. He served his country faithfully for three years. On his return to Norwich he resumed his legal studies, and was admitted in November, 1865. In 1868 he was elected district attorney and served three years. Children: Edith, Margaret, married H. William Clarke of Oxford, Nathan P. and Charles R.

JAMES NATHAN, died April 24, 1872, having but just reached the threshold of young manhood.

But I have that within, which passeth show;
These but the trappings and the suits of woe.
—SHAKESPEARE.

Rev. Horatio T. McGeorge.

Rev. Horatio T. McGeorge, died January 13, 1852, aged 97. He was born in London, England, and in early life had the advantage of a liberal education. His attainments as a linguist were extensive and thorough, and he spoke with ease and fluency eight different languages. At the age of 25, having married the daughter of an eminent Scotch divine, his mind was directed to the Christian ministry, and he was pastor of several dissenting congrega-

tions in Scotland. At this period of his life he also studied medicine, and in connection with his clerical duties was to a considerable extent engaged in its practice. About 1802, he emigrated to this country and settled at Hadley, Mass., where he resumed the work of the ministry, and was for several years pastor of the Congregational church in that place. Then he removed to South Oxford in 1820, where the remaining part of his long life was spent. During a portion of this time he preached in the Congregational church at Coventryville, but was dismissed March 16, 1827.

During his residence in Oxford, Mr. McGeorge was very eccentric, and always wrote his name as Rev'd Horatio T. McGeorge, V. D. M. It was said he had been banished from England. He owned a Cremona violin, which he handled skillfully, playing nothing without his notes, and his execution was equal to any master of that instrument. He often drove to town, usually in an old gig, connected by his own ingenuity with a horse and two wheels about thirty feet from his seat, with ropes and straps so adjusted that he could free the animal from the vehicle and retain his seat. He had a small log cabin near his house that he used for his study. Sensible of how much men are affected by external appearances and to strike the passing traveler and the casual visitor with awe, he affixed to the outside of the building a large-sized coffin, standing upright, the head of which, when the lid was down, admitted the light through his only window. The more fully to accomplish his object, he had the roof and sides decorated with signs of his own make; a few of the inscriptions were: "Hermitage," "It preaches," "The house of death," and "Beware, thou sinner." Within was an open grave, which as each morn returned he threw out a small quantity of earth. Skeletons and articles of like species composed the

ornamental part of his furniture. To sundry old men, women, and children this paraphernalia of death was exceedingly terrifying. But transitory is our happiness here below and the unfortunate tenant of the "Hermitage" had practical demonstration of it, for, notwithstanding the sanctity of the place, on one dark Saturday night the coffin and signs were transferred to the side of a slaughter-house in the village, at the singular appearance of which hundreds of citizens were greatly shocked through the Sabbath that succeeded the transfer. The occasion was one of great grief to the old doctor, but it ended this vagary. He was buried in the grave that he himself had dug, and a stone wall in the shape of a coffin was built around it, which remains to this day.

He was the father of twelve children, among whom were:

ELIZABETH, born in 1779; died September 13, 1857, at Greene, N. Y.; married Reuben Chase.

HORATIO T., JR., born in 1784; died January 13, 1854, at Athens, Pa.

DAVEY D., born December 12, 1801, at Middletown, Conn.; died October 19, 1889, in Oxford, where he had resided since 1820. Married (1) December 19, 1826, Priscilla Robinson of Pittsfield, N. Y., born February 29, 1807; died July 2, 1835, in Oxford. Married (2) January 5, 1836, Hannah C. Bolles, born January 21, 1814, at Southbridge, Conn.; died December 3, 1891, at Schenevus, N. Y. Children by first wife: Elizabeth A., married Solomon Bundy, Jr.; Catherine A., died June 2, 1906, at Hornell, N. Y.; married James Curtis of Addison, N. Y. Children by second wife: Sarah D., died March 8, 1874, in Oxford; married Rodney L. Smith of Wolcottville, Conn.; Evalina, married September 4, 1878, William Cook of Oxford; Now a resident of Afton, N. Y.

He tried the luxury of doing good.
—CRABBE.

Austin Rouse, M. D.

Dr. Austin Rouse, born June 15, 1796, in Norwich, N. Y., was the eldest son of Judge Casper Rouse, who came from the New England states and settled on the site of Mt. Hope cemetery in that village. Dr. Rouse studied medicine with Dr. Henry Mitchell of Norwich and completed his studies with Dr. Perez Packer at Oxford in 1821, with whom he practiced for some time, remaining here till his death, which occurred August 27, 1866. In the social and domestic relations of life he was ever characterized by great purity of character, integrity of purpose, and an abiding kindness of heart, as uniform as it was admirable. He was, perhaps, connected with more hearthstones and homes than any other person in the community in the dear and tender relations of a beloved and faithful physician. Dr. Rouse married May 12, 1825, Jane E., daughter of Erastus and Abigail (Stephens) Perkins, born May 2, 1806; died September 28, 1875, in Scranton, Pa., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. B. Bennett. Mrs. Rouse, while descending a staircase, fell and was discovered by her daughter apparently in a faint. A physician was summoned, but the patient was beyond human help and expired in fifteen minutes after she was taken up. It was thought she tripped and fell headlong down the steps, striking upon her head and dislocating the vertebræ of the neck. Children:

MARY J., married Henry C. Roome.

LOUISE, married (1) James O. Clarke; married (2) —— Stevens.

MARGARET R., married Adolphus B. Bennett; died July 29, 1891, in Jersey City, N. J., aged 47.

Ay, call it holy ground,
The soil where first they trod,
They have left unstain'd what there they found.—
Freedom to worship God.

—Mrs. Hemans.

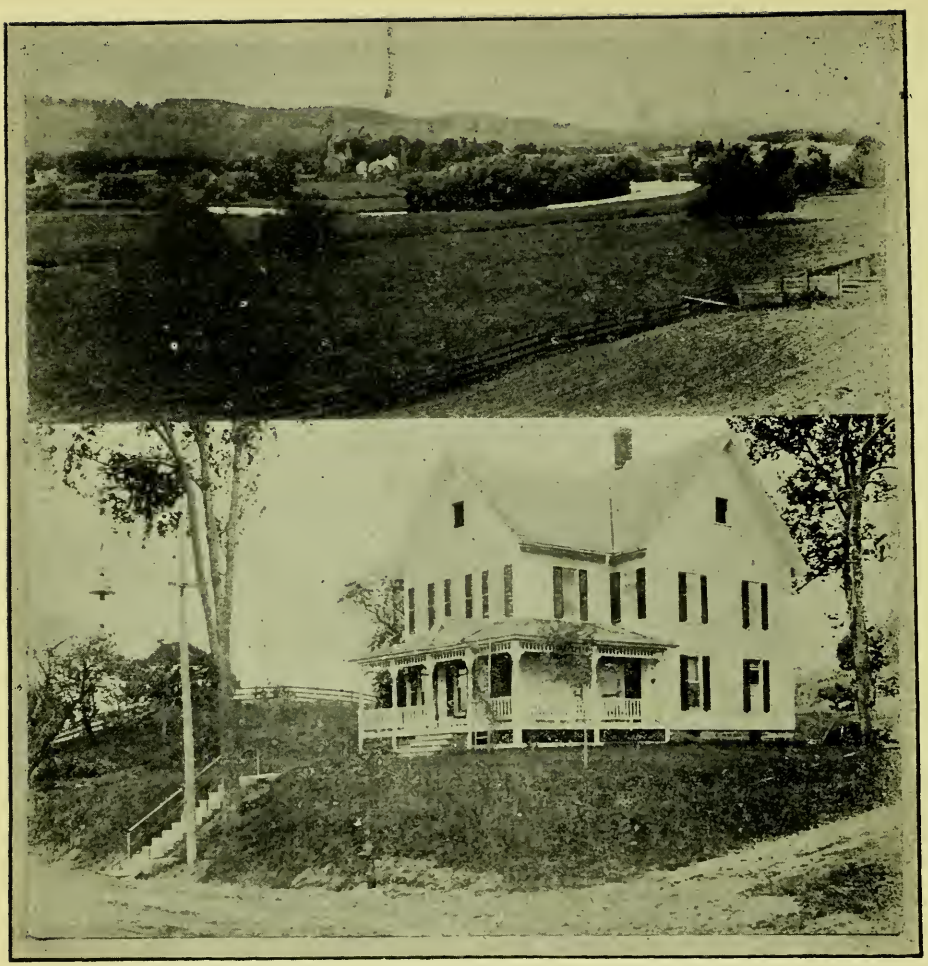
Ephraim Fitch.

Ephraim Fitch, one of the early settlers of the town, was born in Norwich, Conn., March 29, 1736. His father came over in the Mayflower from England and first settled in Massachusetts. Ephraim married Lydia Root, April 28, 1757, and raised a family of four children, one girl and three boys. He was the first elected supervisor of the town; was well educated, having passed through college; he became a teacher and later president of the same college. The first visit that he made to Oxford was on horseback, accompanied by Daniel Tremain, through the woods, guided only by marked trees and Indian paths. The two travelers bought land and afterwards settled upon it; the former near Fitch hill, north of the village, which subsequently was named after him, and the latter on the east side of the river, near Brisbin. They improved large farms, raised families, and lived to be very old men. Mr. Fitch died in Cattaraugus county, where he moved in 1814. He was said to have been 96 years of age at the time of his death. His sons, John and Jonatham, held town offices with Anson Cary, Uri Tracy, and others.

John Fitch was a captain in the Revolutionary war, served through most of the northern campaigns, and fought in every battle of consequence. A genuine spirit of '76, he was attached by General Washington to that brave body of men which, from the extreme danger of

their service, was called the "Forlorn Hope." He was twice married and raised a family of fourteen children, eight sons and six daughters, all living to a ripe old age but one, a girl, who died at the age of 24. Captain Fitch died suddenly in this village July 8, 1824, aged 66.

Daniel Perry Fitch, the seventh son of Captain John Fitch, was born on Fitch hill April 23, 1804, and passed the first twenty years of his life in this town and Norwich. At the age of 12 he entered the office of the Oxford Gazette, published by Chauncey Morgan, where he learned the "art preservative of all arts." Previous to this time he became a member of the family of Cyrus A. Bacon, probably working for his board, as he took care of the cow, set the table and helped wash dishes. James Clapp kept his horse in the barn where Mr. Bacon kept his cow, and one day while preparing for a drive dropped a five dollar gold piece, which he was unable to find. A few mornings afterwards Perry saw something shining in the dirt, picked it up and put it in his mouth until he had finished milking, when he showed it to Mr. Bacon, who told him to let Mr. Clapp see it. Mr. Clapp asked where it was found, and said it was his pocket piece, then placed it in his pocket and continued eating breakfast. Perry went into the kitchen feeling very poor, but soon Mr. Clapp asked him to go to the store of Ira Willcox, where he purchased a fine piece of broadcloth, and then took him to William Guyler's tailor shop and told him to make the boy a good coat, as he had found and returned his gold piece. In a short time Perry had a coat worth more than the amount of money he had found. When Morgan sold out young Fitch entered the office of Thurlow Weed, who published the Chenango Agriculturist in Norwich about the year 1818. Perry remained with Mr. Weed until he sold, and then left the printing business on account of poor



RESIDENCE OF ALPHA MORSE AND VIEW THEREFROM



ST. JAMES HOTEL

health. He had relatives in South Oxford, where he remained five years, then left for the western part of the State, and died a few years ago at Cuba, N. Y.

Who does the best his circumstance allows, Does well, acts nobly; angels could do no more.

—YOUNG.

Hezekiah Morse.

Hezekiah Morse, born July 3, 1767, at Sherburne, Mass.; died suddenly July 18, 1827; married (1) Elizabeth Perry; married (2) Sally Stow, who died September 22, 1870, aged 93.

Mr. Morse removed to Eaton, Madison county, in 1804. In 1809 he was elected supervisor of that town, which office he held for several successive years. At an early age he became a communicant of the Episcopal church, and as there was no congregation of that persuasion in the vicinity of Eaton he came to this village in 1819 to reside that he might worship in that faith. Mr. Morse purchased of Daniel Denison Valley View farm, now owned and occupied by his grandsons, A. and E. P. Morse.

His son, Hezekiah B., was born February 15, 1811, in Eaton, and coming to Oxford with his parents resided on the farm till his death, which occurred June 16, 1879. He was a practical farmer and made a success in life. The farm originally comprised 160 acres, but at present comprises ninety, one-third of which is fertile river bottoms, through which the Chenango pursues its winding way, and the rest gradually rolling west to higher elevations. Mr.

Morse married May 4, 1845, Clarissa Symonds, born June 29, 1824, in Oxford; died July 4, 1877. Children:

MELVIN, died March 21, 1864, aged 18.

ALPHA, married Mariba Durfee. He and his brother Edward have pursued dairying in a practical manner for years, and engaged in raising thoroughbred short-horn cattle purely for dairy qualities. Mr. Morse had an exhibit of cattle at the World's Fair in Chicago, where he was employed several months. Children: John R., born January 18, 1868; died September 10, 1870; A. Raymond, married Bertha Willcox, and has two children living, having lost twin sons; now practicing medicine at Eaton, Madison county.

CLARA, died December 27, 1872, aged 22; unmarried.

TWIN SONS, died in infancy.

EDWARD P.

The greatest happiness comes from the greatest activity.
—BOVEE.

Jeremiah York.

Jeremiah York was born September 25, 1794, at North Stonington, Conn. In 1815 he married Catherine Pendleton at Norwich, N. Y., where they resided three years and then came to Oxford. Mrs. York was a native of Connecticut, where she was born July 22, 1789. She died January 14, 1826, in Oxford, leaving three children, Hiram, Henry D., and Catherine, who married S. P. Stillman. The two last are still living in 1906, aged 82 and 79 respectively. Mr. York lived the remainder of his life in Oxford, passing away April 24, 1873. He married for his second wife Mrs.

Aruba Sheldon, born February 4, 1804; died April 21, 1886. One child blessed this union, Electa A., who married Henry L. York of Norwich, and died November 2, 1853, aged 25.

During the many years of his life in Oxford, Mr. York was an active and prominent member of the community, being identified especially with its educational interests. He was a trustee of Oxford Academy until the frailties of old age obliged him to resign. His children, four in number, and three of Mrs. York's (nee Sheldon) were educated at the Academy, in which he was so much interested, and they repaid his kindness by attaining good scholarship.

Mr. York erected in 1835 the first brick dwelling-house in Oxford, now the residence of Walker Porter, south of the W. R. C. Home. He was a thorough-going farmer, using every method then known to make his farm productive, and at one time took first premium awarded by the Town Agricultural Society for the best wrought and cropped farm in Oxford. He was for many years a deacon in the Baptist church, and also an honored member of the Masonic order.

Abigal Sheldon, daughter of Mrs. York by a former marriage, was born in 1825 in White Store, N. Y., and died January 12, 1891, at Highmount, N. Y. She married Charles Fish, born in 1824 near Albany, and who came with his father's family to Oxford in 1840 and lived on the Loren Willcox farm, then owned by a Mr. Thompson, a relative. Soon after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Fish they went to Elmira to reside, where their two daughters were born: GEORGIANNA, married (1) John Hoffman, a native of Germany, who died in 1883; married (2) Henry Bellamy of Pleasanton, Ill. MEDORA, married October 16, 1866, James T. Hill of Oxford, now residing at Highmount, N. Y.

Neither above nor below his business.
—Tacitus.

William Mygatt.

William Mygatt, born October 25, 1785, in New Milford, Conn.; died February 5, 1868, in Oxford; married January 29, 1817, in New Milford, Caroline, daughter of Cyrus Northrup, born July 27, 1797, in New Milford; died May 15, 1866, in Oxford.

Mr. Mygatt was one of the prominent business men of Oxford, whose career was especially successful. During the summer of 1818 he brought his wife of but a few months to this village and engaged in the mercantile business. For a few years he was associated with his brother, Henry Mygatt, and brother-in-law, Austin Hyde, after which he devoted his whole attention to the tanning business. He purchased of Major Dan Throop the place now owned by Mrs. George B. Coe, then a farm, and his tannery stood at the foot of the hill, but no vestige of it now remains. Mr. Mygatt's business operations were of greater magnitude and extent than usually pertain to one man in a country town. By his industry, his diligent attention to business, and a wise forecast, he was eminently prosperous and successful. His habits of life were rigidly temperate, frugal, and regular, and to these doubtless he was much indebted for that uniform health which he enjoyed even to old age. Early trained in the principles of Christianity, he always exhibited a high appreciation of the institutions of religion, giving to them his personal encouragement and pecuniary support. Thus he lived to a good old age, honored and

respected; then he passed away and entered into rest. Children:

ELIZABETH, born November 7, 1817; married Henry L. Miller; died February 5, 1890.

FREDERICK N., born August 19, 1819; died March 27, 1823.

SARAH A., born October 16, 1821; died March 1, 1893; married April 20, 1847, Dr. Alfred B. Coe, died August 13, 1854, aged 36. Children: George B., born January 6, 1849; died April 8, 1901; married Florine Brewster of Schoharie; (child, Ralph B.). William M., born November 8, 1851; died September 19, 1893, in West Winfield, N. Y.; married Lucia Winsor of Guilford; (children, James W. and Alfred W.). Carrie E., born May 16, 1853; died unmarried August 12, 1896, in Owego, N. Y.

EMILY N., born August 26, 1823; died unmarried May 15, 1856.

SUSAN M., born October 29, 1825; died February 21, 1826.

CAROLINE L., born January 31, 1827; died January 23, 1895, in Minneapolis; married September 18, 1850, Rufus J. Baldwin, born January 22, 1825, in Guilford; died in Minneapolis, Minn. Children: Emily, born August 29, 1853; died April 17, 1858. Lizzie, born July 9, 1859; died April 10, 1869. Frederick R., born November 6, 1860.

JANE A., born February 1, 1829; died November 24, 1894; married June 14, 1866, Dr. George Douglas.

JULIA M., born May 8, 1832; died April 23, 1863, in Minneapolis, Minn.; married September —, 1857, Charles E. Vanderburgh, born December 30, 1830, in Skaneateles, N. Y.; (children, William H., born July 15, 1856; Julia, born ——, 1861; died ——, 1871).

The choir,
With all the choicest music of the kingdom,
Together sung Te Deum.
—SHAKESPEARE.

John C. Bowers.

John C. Bowers, born April 14, 1811, in Stonington, Conn.; died April 1, 1898, in Oxford; married (1) Achsa Main, daughter of Randall Main of Oxford, who died within a year and a half after their marriage; married (2) January 31, 1842, Emeline Peck, born July 17, 1817; died November 4, 1902, in Sidney.

Mr. Bowers came to Oxford in 1817 and in later years became colonel of a militia regiment, when such organizations were popular, and a very dashing officer he made. He was a conductor of singing schools for many years in Oxford and adjoining towns, teaching "sacred music" to many old-time singers, who eventually became members of village choirs. In the early days of St. Paul's church he was a choir leader, which position he faithfully and satisfactorily filled a number of years. When the present church was erected he furnished the stone to build it, and laid many rods of sidewalk in the village. Mr. Bowers conducted a bakery for a time on Washington street, opposite the Chenango House, which has since been burned. He successfully canvassed a portion of the State for the New York State Gazateer, and in Illinois for a United States map. Later he built the octagon house on Mechanic street. Children by second wife:

D. MARION, married October 16, 1873, Frances Weller of Sidney, where he now resides. RODOLPHUS T., died January 2, 1853, in infancy.

He lives long that lives well.

—FULLER.

Samuel A. Gifford.

Samuel A. Gifford, who was familiarly known as General Gifford, was the only son of Abner and Lucy (Lord) Gifford, who came in 1800, soon after their marriage, and settled in the town of Oxford on what is known as Prospect View farm, which overlooks nine towns. Here their six daughters and one son were born. General Gifford was the youngest of the family, except one sister who died at the age of fourteen years. He always resided in the town and the greater portion of his life was spent on the farm that his father settled. At an early age he became connected with the State militia and in the course of time was promoted from a private to captain, then to colonel and brigadier general. He received his commissions from the Governor of the State and held the office until the militia was disbanded. Having a talent for vocal music, he for many years taught singing schools and was leader or chorister in some church nearly all his life, till failing health compelled him to give up active work. General Gifford was born in 1817 and died September 29, 1894. He married in 1848 Emma Hodge of Oxford, born in 1824; died November —, 1906. Children: MARY A., married Alexander Lathan; residence Denver, Col. RAY, married Ida Carhart; died in 1893 in Oxford. WARD B., married Jennie L. Turner; residence Oxford. HIAL H., married Ella B. Brooksbank, and resides on the old homestead.

Each in his narrow cell forever laid,
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

—GRAY.

McFarland Family.

The clan Macfarlane descended from one of the ancient Earls of Lennox. The ancestor was Gilchrist, the brother of Maldowen, or Malduin, third Earl of Lennox; the name of a descendant named Parlan being changed to Macparlan, and later to Macfarlane, originating the name of the Highland Clan. During the year 1488, in a war for the protection of their lands on the west shore of Loch Lomond, the Macfarlanes separated, forming a clan by themselves. They were numerous and powerful, but in the wars of the clans their chief was killed, they nearly destroyed, and many of the survivors fled to remote parts of the country. Andrew Macfarlane, who married into the Stewart and Darnley families, saved a portion of the clan from destruction, and recovered for them a part of their possessions. His son, Sir John Macfarlane, was made captain of the clan. A portion of the Clan Macfarlane at the time of their dispersion settled in the north of Ireland, and changed the spelling of the name to McFarland.

Daniel McFarland and son Andrew, aged 28, were among a colony of Scotch-Irish who landed in Boston on the 4th of August, 1718. They settled in Worcester, Mass.

Andrew McFarland, son of above, married Rebecca Gray, and they had three sons, William, James, and Daniel. James married Elizabeth Barbour.

John McFarland, eighth child of James and Elizabeth (Barbour) McFarland, was born February 20, 1766, and

resided for many years in Worcester, Mass. During the Revolution he was a drummer-boy, and later a member of Governor Thomas Hancock's bodyguard, a company of mounted men. After the war he became a blacksmith, married Abigail Spencer, and had two sons, Ira Barbour and Lawrence, and one daughter, Anna, who married an Ackerman. He died at the residence of his son, Ira B., in Oxford, May 31, 1843, aged 76. His wife died July 13, 1831, aged 59.

Ira Barbour McFarland was born at Kinderhook Landing, N. Y., August 30, 1780. He married Polly Fenton, a daughter of Solomon Fenton, December 28, 1808. He came with his family into this section in 1816, and after living in poor circumstances at Sidney Plains and in Guilford, finally settled upon a piece of land about three miles below Oxford village on the west bank of the Chenango river. After his arrival here he taught school on Panther hill seven winters in succession. The same school was taught by his brother, a son, and four grandchildren, extending over a period of ninety years. Mr. McFarland cleared the forest land into a fine farm and reared a family of eight children. During his residence in Sidney he was considered one of the most skillful pilots on the Susquehanna in running lumber rafts to Philadelphia and Chesapeake Bay. The beggar for a crust of bread was never turned from his door, and the heart hungry for sympathy always found it in him. He was well read and a man of unusual breadth of understanding and judgment. Mr. McFarland died January 21, 1880, aged 91. His wife, who was a faithful assistant and shared her husband's troubles and hardships during his pioneer life, was his true companion as long as life lasted. She died January 29, 1866, aged 74. Their children, all born in Oxford, were:

Edwin F., born November 6, 1809; a school teacher in

Oxford and later in Concord, Ky., where he died December 12, 1857; married Abigail Simmons March 4, 1829, who died at Muscatine, O. They had six children, the youngest of whom, Henry B., came to Oxford at the death of his father to live with his Uncle Solomon. He was educated at Oxford Academy, became a telegraph operator, and is now train dispatcher of the M. & St. L. Ry. at Minneapolis, Minn.

Orson L., born July 19, 1810; married Julia A. Holmes and moved to Troupsburg, N. Y., where he died April 11, 1894. They had two children. After the death of his wife he married a second time.

Philenda, born May 5, 1813; died July 6, 1820.

Betsy E., born April 17, 1816; died at Norwich December 28, 1850; married Cyrus Horton, who died May 3, 1879. They had six children.

Susan M., born October 12, 1819; died ——; married Erastus Briggs, who died August 8, 1894, aged 83. They had six children, Oscar E., married Julia L. Loomis; Marion, married Liberal C. B. Fish; Elizabeth, married Samuel Morehouse; has one daughter, Minnie; Ire E., married Mayme Hasley; have two children, Hazel and Robert; Edwin R. D., married Laura H. Arnold; a minister of the M. E. church; has one daughter, Christina; Herbert A.

Solomon F., born July 12, 1828. He received his education at the Panther hill school and Oxford Academy. Farming not being to his taste, he went into a foundry at South Oxford with his brother-in-law, Cyrus Horton, where he became expert at the business, and worked at the same in Addison, Norwich, and Sherburne. With the money thus earned he managed to pay his way through the study of medicine, and also through college. He studied with Dr. George Douglas in this village, was licensed to practice by the Chenango Medical Society in

1854, and then located at Troupsburg Center, N. Y. After practicing two years he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, from which he graduated in the class of '57, and returned to Oxford, where he became a successful physician and surgeon. On the 15th of May, 1851, he married Hannah B., daughter of Peleg B. Folger. In August, 1862, Dr. McFarland was commissioned Assistant Surgeon by Governor Morgan, and assigned to the 83d Regt. N. Y. S. V. He was mustered into the service by Major Lee at Norwich and started at once to join the regiment. He was absent nearly three months and then was forced to resign on account of lack of physical endurance. He was present at the battles of South Mountain and Antietam. April 19, 1863, he was appointed by the President Surgeon of the Board of Enrollment for the 19th New York District, with quarters at Unadilla the first few weeks and afterwards at Norwich. He performed the arduous duties of that office for thirteen months, when continued ill health compelled him to resign from military service, and he again took up his professional work in Oxford. Mrs. McFarland died June 24, 1883, after a lingering disease, which she bore patiently. Her life was devoted to her family and she left remaining a noble record. On June 30, 1884, Dr. McFarland moved to Binghamton, where his reputation as an oculist became quite extensively known. In April, 1885, he married Addie L. Chamberlain. He died April 26, 1900. His children by his first wife were: Evalyn A., born at Troupsburg, N. Y., March 5, 1853; married Frank Cowan in October, 1883, and died November 6, 1883. Agnes P., born at Troupsburg, N. Y., October 20, 1854; now residing at Binghamton; unmarried. Francis H., died in infancy from injuries received in falling from a wagon while at play. Frank Hervey, born in Oxford in 1861; married November

9, 1887, Martha Kent of Lyons, N. Y., and is now an optician at Binghamton.

Henry A., born May 15, 1831; married Sarah Jane Horton, who died June 9, 1882. He practiced dentistry for many years in Oxford and then removed to Binghamton, where he also built up a large practice. He was also manager for many years while in Oxford of the Western Union Telegraph Company, at the time when the register printed the dots and dashes on long strips of paper and was read by the eye. It was on this cumbersome instrument that he received the news of the firing on Fort Sumpter. He died at the home of his brother, Charles A., on the old homestead, January 20, 1892. His children: Fred A., born December 30, 1867; now stenographer in the office of the solicitor of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company at Minneapolis, Minn.; married Martha L. McNair, and has one son, Arthur Henry. Jennie Elene, twin of Fred A., married Fred L. Titchener of Binghamton; died at Cortland February 8, 1902, leaving five children.

Charles Arthur, born August 13, 1833; died May 30, 1905; was the last survivor of the family, and always remained upon the old homestead. He held acceptably the office of supervisor, as well as minor town positions. He married April 9, 1856, Charlotte Webb, with whom he lived in unbroken harmony for forty-five years. Mrs. McFarland died October 2, 1901. Their children are: Harriet, married Melvin B. Stratton of South Oxford. Ira B., married Alice R. Stratton October 21, 1885; resides in New York. Lottie, married Vernon D. Stratton, Esq., September 27, 1893; (children, Marion C., Margaret McF., died in infancy, and Hubert C.) Lillian, twin to Lottie, married Arthur E. Cline June 2, 1906; residence Ogdensburg, N. Y.

His tribe were God Almighty's gentlemen.
—Dryden.

Ishmael Nichols.

Ishmael Nichols was among the early residents of the village of Oxford and came from Nooseneck, R. I., and was born April 5, 1766. His wife's maiden name was Lydia Holl. His death occurred in Oxford in 1820, after which his widow married —— Stevens. They lived with her son, Archibald Nichols, in a part of the house at the head of Albany street, now known as the George Brown house. The children of Ishmael were: Archibald, married Betsey Sherwood; Spencer, Palmer, Gardiner, Sarah, married Levi Sherwood of Oxford; after a few years they moved to Illinois and both died there. William, studied medicine and practiced in Abington, near Scranton, Pa., where he died November 12, 1822. Alfred, followed agricultural pursuits at Addison, N. Y. Hiram, studied medicine with his brother William, and practiced over fifty years at Clarks Green, near Scranton, Pa., where he died September 29, 1886.

Archibald Nichols, son of Ishmael and Lydia (Holl) Nichols, was born June 14, 1787; place of birth unknown; died December 11, 1838, in Wellsboro, Pa.; married Betsey Sherwood, daughter of Levi Sherwood of Oxford. They moved to Wellsboro, Pa., about the year 1825, where he engaged in the lumbering business on West Branch of Pine Creek. While a resident of Oxford he owned the farm near Riverview cemetery, now known as the George Brown place. Children:

Levi I., born December —, 1809, in Oxford; died November 14, 1868, in Wellsboro, Pa.; married Sarah J. Brown, daughter of Thomas Brown of Oxford, who died in Wells-

boro, aged 84. Mr. Nichols was a fine musician, and while yet very young played the organ in the Presbyterian church. Like Mrs. Sylvia Fox Taintor, his cousin, he received his musical talent from the Sherwoods. He moved to Wellsboro about the year 1831, and became largely identified with the material interests of Tioga county. He was engaged in mercantile business with his brother Enos, and served a term as Associate Judge upon the county bench. He was the father of thirteen children, one of whom, Mrs. Sarah Nichols Williams, still resides in Wellsboro, and has in her possession a piano given her father by his grandfather, and which was the first one taken into Tioga county, Pa.

Lydia Maria, died in youth, Enos A., unmarried; engaged in mercantile business with his brother Levi in Wellsboro; died at the age of 30 years. Mary E., married William Bache, one of the prominent citizens of Wellsboro.

Obedience, we may remember, is a part of religion, and therefore an element of peace; but love which includes obedience, is the whole.

—SEWELL.

Universalist Church.

"The First Universalist Society in the town of Oxford" was organized July 8, 1833, at the west side district schoolhouse in the village; Anson Cary and Luke Metcalf were appointed moderators, and Daniel Denison, clerk. Luke Metcalf, Philip Bartle, Daniel Denison, Anson Cary, Oliver Richmond, Ira Dodge, Jabez Robinson, Thomas Brown,

and Henry Balcom were the nine trustees elected; Charles Perkins, clerk of the society; James Perkins, treasurer, and Calvin Cole, collector. The earliest record of any meetings in the town is in the year 1833, of one conducted by Rev. George Rogers in the hall of the old hotel on Washington park. Occasional services were held at the residences of Messrs. Bartle and Metcalf, and at the west side schoolhouse by Rev. Nelson Doolittle, who came to Oxford in the fall of 1834, and remained here nearly four years. The present church edifice was erected in 1836 and '37, and was dedicated February 22, 1837, the Revs. O. Winston, S. R. Smith, N. Doolittle, and M. B. Smith officiating upon that occasion. The edifice cost about $3,000. The site was purchased by Henry Balcom and Ira Dodge of Ethan Clarke, and deeded by them to the society November 26, 1839, for $300.

During the year 1862 the ancient pulpit was replaced by one of modern style, and in 1870 sundry changes were made upon the building, which was lowered twenty-eight inches, and stone steps replaced the wooden ones that had extended the whole length of the front. Outwardly the church remains unchanged, but the inside was renovated and modernized in 1882; the body was transformed, the side galleries removed, and the pulpit placed opposite to where it had stood so many years; the pews remodeled, the floor newly carpeted, and the walls tinted. A new organ was purchased, which occupies a space near the pulpit. Seventeen memorial windows, rich in design, light the auditorium; one above the pulpit and circular in form is dedicated to the memory of Rev. and Mrs. John Temple Goodrich by their son and daughter. About $1100 was expended in repairs. The rededication services were held November 22, 1882, Rev. D. Ballou of Utica delivering the sermon.

On the 22d of February, 1887, occurred the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication, at which the sermon preached by Rev. S. R. Smith at the dedication in 1837 was read, and Rev. D. Ballou delivered a semi-centennial address, giving a historical sketch of the society. A bell was added to the church in 1887. For over fifty years Mrs. Sylvia (Fox) Taintor was organist and "played the melodies of devotion, the bridal march and the funeral dirge for almost two generations of her associates and companions."

The clergymen who have served the society as pastors are: Rev. Nelson Doolittle, 1833-34; Rev. —— Skeel, 1835; Rev. J. T. Goodrich, 1836-1849; Rev. A. W. Bruce, 1850-51; Rev. Charles E. Hewes, 1852-56; Rev. J. G. Bartholomew, 1856-58; Rev. A. J. Canfield, 1859; Rev. B. L. Bennett, 1859-60; Rev. Daniel Ballou, 1861-63; Rev. F. B. Peck, 1865-69; Rev. J. W. LaMoine, 1872-74; Rev. R. F. Kingsley, 1875-77; Rev. J. M. Clark, 1879-'80; Rev. Ure Mitchell, 1881-85, and 1887-88; Rev. Amanda Deyo, 1889-91; Rev. Charles Palmatier, 1892-93; Rev. L. M. Clement, June, 1894-95; Rev. J. L. Scoboria, 1895-96; Rev. G. W. Powell, 1900; Rev. O. R. Beardsley, 1903, died May 25, 1905; Rev. H. L. Rickard.

Rev. John Temple Goodrich was born May 28, 1815, in Middlefield, N. Y. He came to Oxford and boarded in the family of Rev. Mr. Doolittle, until his removal to Norwich in the spring of 1838. Mr. Goodrich preached his first sermon in public in this village and remained here some twelve years, where he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret M. Bolles, daughter of Elias Bolles, Esq. Five children were born to them. Mr. Goodrich is supposed to have perished in the great Chicago fire. He registered at the Metropolitan Hotel in that city October 5, 1871, engaging a room for an indefinite period. On Sunday, the

eighth, he was known to have been in his room up to the hour of retiring, and this was the last seen of him. The hotel burned early the next morning.

He lived in that past Georgian day,
When men were less inclined to say
That "Time is Gold," and overlay
With toil their pleasure.

—DOBSON.

General Ransom Rathbone.

General Ransom Rathbone, a man of rare social qualities, was born at Colchester, Conn., April 10, 1780, and came to Oxford in 1806. His father was an officer in the war of the Revolution. He was an enterprising man and carried on a large mercantile business on the corner now occupied by the residence of F. G. Clarke. His store and dwelling were among the palatial buildings of that day. He also had a store in McDonough, under the charge of his son, Henry W. Rathbone. He owned a paper mill in that village, which in later years was burned.

General Rathbone came to Oxford when the urgent needs of a village in the full tide of a successful settlement, and hopeful for the future, required vigorous and enthusiastic men like him to take a part in its business and develop its resources. For more than a quarter of a century his personal history appears prominently blended with every important public enterprise. As one of the founders of St. Paul's church, and one of its vestry for twenty years; as trustee of Oxford Academy for a still longer term, and during its greatest trials; as a brigade major and inspector

in active service on the frontier in the war of 1812, and as a friend and active promoter of the Chenango canal project, superadded to other public duties, he found full scope for the exercise of rare energy, industry, and public spirit. He was a lover of fine horses, always keeping them, and occasionally would hitch them tandem to his gig, driving to neighboring towns, and even to Utica in a day.

Among General Rathbone's chattels was a slave boy named Pomp, who was full of pranks and very mischievous. When his master had occasion to flog him, which was often, he would take him by the wool on the top of his head. One day Pomp thought he would get the better of the General for once, so he had the wool shaved off clean on the crown of his head, and then stuck it on with wax. The next offense occurring soon after, the General got his rawhide and seized Pomp at the usual point, but much to his amazement it didn't hold, and Pomp danced off in high glee, shouting, "Oh, Massa Rathbone! youse snatched me baldheaded and I's an ole man now; 'cause I ain't got any wool on the top of my head." This prank of Pomp's gave him a reprieve from the rawhide for many days.

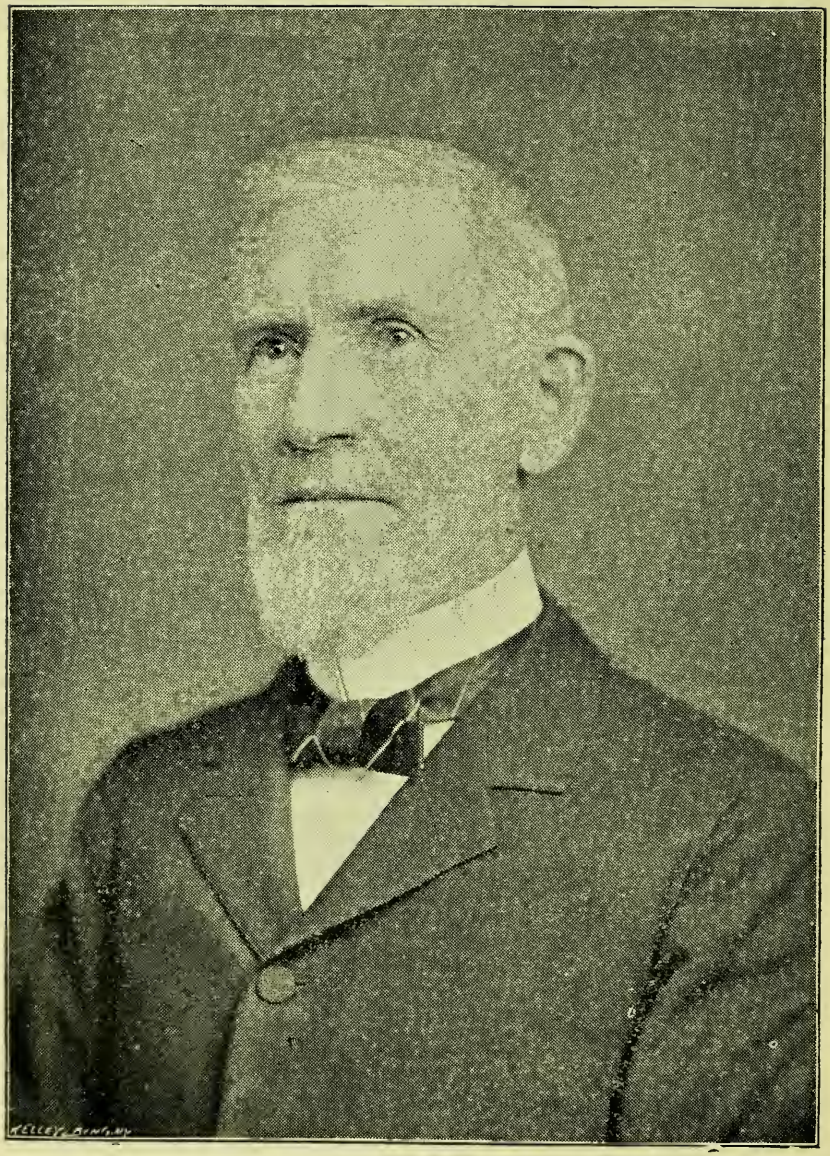
General Rathbone left Oxford in 1842, removing to Steuben county, where, amid the green ruins of the forest, he founded a village, which bears his name, and where he died July 17, 1861, at the age of 81. His wife, Catherine, daughter of Captain John Fisher, an Englishman, died July 27, 1857, at Rathboneville. Children:

Cornelia M., married Dr. W. G. Micks; died June 25, 1857, at Clinton, N. C.

Catherine, unmarried.

William R., who bore the title of Major, died July 9, 1872, in Elmira, N. Y.

Henry W., died September 29, 1891, at Elmira. One son, James B., now resides in that city.



MAJOR O. H. CURTIS

JOHN F., died unmarried October 28, 1865, at Woodbridge, Cal. His inheritance from his father of the love for fine horses was the cause of a terrible accident on the Canisteo river near Rathboneville. He had two high-strung horses hitched tandem to a cutter and invited Miss Jane Jones, a young society lady, to a drive on the ice. The river was frozen hard, and when at their highest speed in crossing a reef where the ice was thin, the forward horse broke through, but leaped across on to firmer ice. The rear horse also sprang upon the ice, drawing the cutter with its occupants into the opening at such an angle that the momentum threw the young lady head foremost under the ice. Mr. Rathbone seized her by her dress and cloak, but the latter unfastened and she disappeared from sight. Assistance was quickly at hand, but it was necessary to cut the ice in blocks of a rod long and float them under to move with the current one after another for two hours before reaching the body.

Take thou thy arms and come with me,
For we must quit ourselves like men.

—BRYANT.

Major O. H. Curtis.

Major Oscar Henry Curtis, son of George and Nancy Curtis, born March 25, 1832, in the town of Norwich; died December 26, 1903, in Oxford; married June 6, 1866, Susan Elizabeth, daughter of John and Sarah (Hopkins) VanWagenen.

Major Curtis spent his childhood on a farm at White Store, Norwich, working through the summer and attend-

ing school in the winter. At an early age he taught in district schools and later entered the Gilbertsville Academy, where he prepared himself for Union College, from which he graduated in 1858. Soon after he came to this village and taught languages and higher mathematics in Oxford Academy, and during the last term was principal in charge. In 1860 he commenced reading law with Henry R. Mygatt, Esq., having studied in the interval of teaching under Henry VanDerLyn, Esq. He was admitted to the bar in May, 1861, and commenced the practice of law in this village. In 1862 he offered his services to the government and on July 29 was commissioned by Governor Fenton to raise a company for the 114th Regt. N. Y. S. V., and immediately transformed his office into a recruiting station, raising the first company in that regiment, and going to the front commissioned a captain. By the death of Col. Smith in 1863, Captain Curtis was promoted to the rank of Major, and served in that capacity till the close of the war. He was an intrepid soldier and participated valiantly in all the hard fought battles that the regiment was engaged in, and happily escaped without wounds. When Lieutenant Colonel Morse was wounded at Sabine Cross Roads, Major Curtis commanded the regiment, and also after the fall of Colonel PerLee at Opequan he commanded the battalion under very trying circumstances. Twice he he held the position of Judge Advocate, once of a general court-martial under General Dwight, and again of a military commission under General Emery. At the close of the war Major Curtis returned to Oxford and resumed his law practice. He was Justice of the Peace eight years from 1867, and in 1868 was elected Special County Judge, holding the office four years, and was Loan Commissioner three years. He represented Chenango county in the Legislature in 1879 and '80, and did effective work in that

body. For a decade previous to his decease he held positions in the United States Senate, his last position was in the office of the Secretary of the Senate. Major Curtis was prominently identified in the centennial of Oxford Academy held in 1894, and afterwards compiled and published a work on the celebration, a book that cost him much labor and pains, but one that proved interestingly valuable.

'Tis not the whole of life to live,
Nor all of death to die.

—MONTGOMERY.

Jesse Brown.

Jesse Brown, a native of Devonshire, England, was born December 27, 1807. His death occurred January 31, 1899, in this village. Mr. Brown and wife came to America in 1840 and first located in Preston near the Norton farm. After residing for a time at Preston Corners they came to the farm in this town next south of the Halfway House, where they resided forty years, and where Mrs. Brown died February 17, 1888. In 1898 Mr. Brown, becoming physically helpless and enfeebled by age, disposed of his farm and removed into the village with his youngest daughter. Here he passed the remainder of his life in full enjoyment of sound mind and intellect. Children: William H., died in 1862, in early manhood; unmarried. John H., married and resides in Scranton, Pa. Lucy J., married Frank W. Comstock, and resides in Oxford. Helen F., married Thomas Knight, and resides at Oradell, N. J. Josephine J., resides at Oradell, N. J.; unmarried. Charles A., married and lives in Kansas City, Mo. Mary G., married A. W. Colony, and resides at Madisonville, Pa.

Formed on the good old plan,
A true and brave and downright honest man.

—WHITTIER.

Cole Family.

Samuel Cole, born July 23, 1775, in Voluntown, Ct., died November 8, 1832 in Oxford; married December 20, 1798, Alice Pullman of West Greenwich, R. I., born June 22, 1783. died January 21, 1858, in Sterling, Ill., and buried in Mt. Hope cemetery, Norwich, N. Y. Mr. Cole, accompanied by his wife and son Calvin, then a lad of 12, came from Sterling, Ct., in 1814 to Oxford and settled the farm now occupied by Clarence R. Miner. He put up a log house containing two rooms and clearing the land subdued the soil for agricultural purposes. The family were congenial, fond of entertaining, and soon became popular with their neighbors, though many lived at a distance.

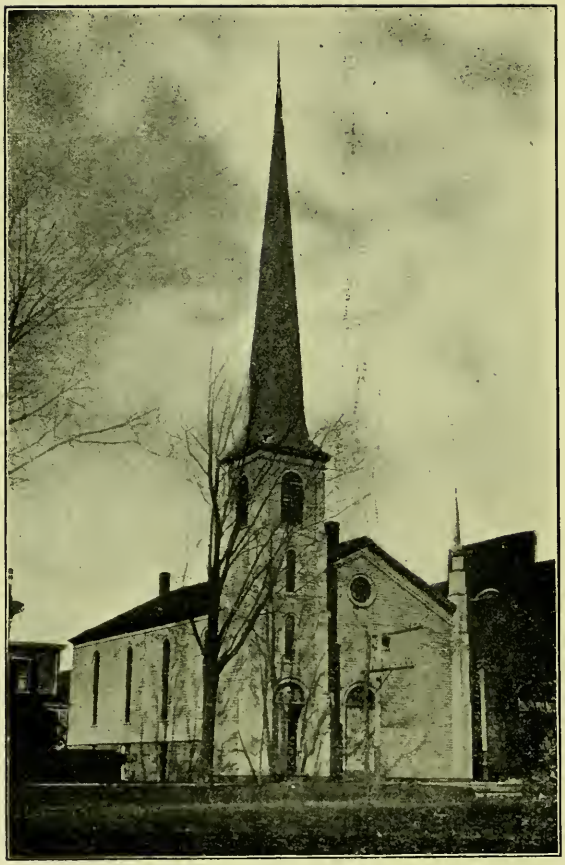
One extremely cold winter's night, when the snow lay deep and drifted, three couples of young people started out for a straw ride to the Cole farm. Their conveyance, a rough sleigh drawn by a yoke of oxen, was slow of locomotion, but with the jest and mirth of youth, the time seemingly passed in a quick manner. While passing through a deep drift near their destination the sleigh was overturned and all were thrown in the snow. With much laughter and joking the party reloaded, when it was found the tongue of the sleigh was broken and could not be used. The sleigh was too heavy for the men to propel with their companions in it and all were forced to walk the remainder of the way. By shoveling and stamping the snow a path was made that the ladies could follow and in this

way they finally reached the home of the Coles. They could not return to their homes until the sleigh was supplied with a new tongue, and the men accompanied by Mr. Cole went with lanterns into the woods to cut one. Neglecting to ascertain the correct measurements, they returned to the sleigh and then again entered the woods, and after many trials and vexations found a tree that would answer. Quickly felled and roughly hewn it was taken back to the house. The night was cold and bitter and the work had to be finished in the living room of the little log cabin. The stick reached from one side of the building to the other, and with the huge fireplace and the large old-fashioned bedstead, there was but scanty room for the company. But they accommodated themselves to the situation and enjoyed a social visit, notwithstanding the many inconveniences. There was but one drawing knife to work with to any advantage and as soon as one became weary with using it another would take it and the others worked with their jackknives. The men worked with a will and as in the course of natural events all things come to an end, so did their work upon the tongue, and it was fitted to the sleigh. It was roughly made, but could be used, and that was all that was necessary. In the meantime Mrs. Cole was preparing supper and had to make frequent visits to the pantry. In doing so she had to climb upon and walk across the bed. Potatoes were put in the ashes of the fireplace to roast, a large panful of doughnuts fried, biscuits made, and with brown bread and apple butter, she served a supper, when the men had finished their labor, that was heartily enjoyed. At a late hour the party started on their return trip and reached their destinations without further mishap.

Children of Samuel and Alice (Pullman) Cole:

Calvin, born September 1, 1802, in Sterling, Ct.; died

May 10, 1882, in Oxford. Married February 24, 1830, Fayette Balcom of Oxford; died April 1, 1879, aged 71, in Oxford. Mr. Cole was a public spirited man, always interesting himself in national, state and home affairs. He served the county in the Legislature, the government in the revenue service and the town in various offices, which duties were faithfully performed. A friend to the cause of education he gave liberally in money and devoted much time to the interests of Oxford Academy, of which for twenty-eight years a trustee, and fourteen a president of the board, he was diligent in the discharge of his duties long after his personal interests in the school had ceased. His active services covered a time when no small amount of labor and personal inconvenience was required, being specially active in the erection of the buildings of the present Academy and the late boarding association. On the evening of July 17, 1884, the Cole fountain on the LaFayette Park, a memorial offering of the sons of Calvin and Fayette Cole, was presented to the town. The presentation address was made by Irving J. Cole, son of John C. Cole, of Troy; the acceptance on behalf of the village trustees by Dr. D. M. Lee; the dedicatory by Wm. H. Hyde, Esq., and a poem by Miss L. A. Balcom was read. The park was handsomely illuminated with Chinese lanterns, the hotels and business places brilliantly lighted and decorated. A large throng was present to witness the exercises, which were of a very interesting order. Three sons were born to them: Augustus, married October 9, 1856, Frances M. Davis of Poughkeepsie; died February 8, 1892, in Oconto, Wis. (Child, Henry, resides in Oconto.) John Calvin, born in 1834; died suddenly March 28, 1888, at Troy, N. Y. Married (1) Lydia Tomlison of Troy; married (2) Emma M. Smiley of Germantown, Pa. He went to Troy in 1854 and engaged in the insurance busi-



THE BAPTIST CHURCH

ERECTED 1834—REMODELED 1870

ness, continuing until his death. (Child by first wife: Irving T., residence, Seattle, Wash.). Henry C., married October 22, 1873, Fanny O. Stewart of Chicago; died January 13, 1895 in Omaha, Neb. (Children: Fayette, Fannie, residence, Omaha.)

CHESTER CICERO, Chief Justice Supreme Court of Iowa, born June 4, 1824, in Oxford; married June 25, 1848, Amanda M. Bennett of Oxford. Graduated at Oxford Academy in 1846; studied in Harvard Law School, 1846-8. Engaged in practice August 11, 1848; Judge and Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Iowa, 1864-76, then resigned and returned to practice; Dean of Iowa College of Law since 1892. Editor *Western Jurist* (legal monthly), 1866-81; edited annotated edition *Iowa Reports* (12 vols.). Children: Spencer C., born January 14, 1850; died August 20, 1851; William W., born August 15, 1852; died November 14, 1894; married Frances Chapin; Alice Gertrude, born December 7, 1854; married A. E. Atherton; Mary E., born March 6, 1857; married D. C. McMartin; Chester, born July 15, 1859; died August 18, 1862; Frank B., born November 9, 1861; married Ella Jenkins; Carrie S., born February 10, 1864; married J. R. Hurlbut.

PHEBE A., died April 4, 1890, in Sterling, Ill; married —— Taylor.

WILLIAM H., resided in Baltimore, Md.

Spires whose "silent finger points to heaven."
—WORDSWORTH.

Baptist Church.

The first settlers in this town brought with them a religious culture and a love of religious institutions imbibed in their New England homes; and nearly contem-

porary with the first labor directed to the subjugation of the wilderness, religious services were held. As early as 1814 there were a number of persons of the Baptist persuasion in this vicinity who desired to form themselves into a church. On July 14, 1815, "The Oxford Baptist Church of Christ" was organized in what was called the McNeil school house, a half hour walk below the present church edifice. August 17, the council of recognition met in a neighboring grove and recognized sixteen persons, among whom were Mrs. John McNeil, Nathaniel Havens, Mrs. Clara Havens, Daniel Tracy, Jr., Mrs. Polly Tracy, John Dodge, Mrs. Betsey Gifford, Mrs. Abigail Hackett, John Hull, Mrs. Hannah Hull, John Perry, Mrs. Mary Perry, Hial Tracy and Mrs. Susan Tracy. The organization grew rapidly and within three years had a membership of 103. The congregation worshiped in school-houses or private dwellings till 1833, when a church building was erected and dedicated January 9, 1834. Elder Jabez S. Swan, subsequently pastor, preached the dedication sermon. This church has served as a feeder of other Baptist churches. The church was remodeled in 1857, the old-fashioned box seats changed to a more modern style, and the pulpit moved to the opposite end of the church. Again in 1879 the church was more extensively remodeled. The audience room is a model of chaste beauty and its seating capacity is three hundred. The horseshoe gallery will seat one hundred and fifty. The wainscoting is of ash and cherry alternate, and the slips are of ash, trimmed with black walnut. All the wood-work in the rooms mentioned is finished in oil. The windows are of stained glass, tastefully designed, and the pulpit platform extends into an alcove. Rising above this platform in the rear is an open baptistery, presenting to the eye in raised letters the words: "Buried with Him in baptism." The orchestra is

at the right of the platform. A new pipe organ was installed in November, 1904, at a cost of $12,000.

The following has been the succession of pastors and dates of settlement: Levi Holcomb, 1819; Nathaniel Otis, 1825; Robert Adams, 1832; Washington Kingsley, 1833; J. D. F. Bestor, 1838; Jabez Swan, 1839; Elisha G. Perry, 1842; Geo. W. Stone, 1844; Wm. S. Smith, 1848; Elijah Baldwin, 1851; Nathaniel Ripley, 1853; W. T. Potter, 1857; L. E. Spafford, 1864; A. Reynolds, 1870; John C. Ward, 1873; R. A. Patterson, 1875; W. R. Baldwin, 1877; L. F. Moore, 1882; B. F. Williams, 1886; P. D. Root, 1887; L. T. Giffin, 1889; Curtis B. Parsons, 1892, present pastor.

Good actions crown themselves with lasting bays
Who deserves well, needs not another's praise.—HEATH.

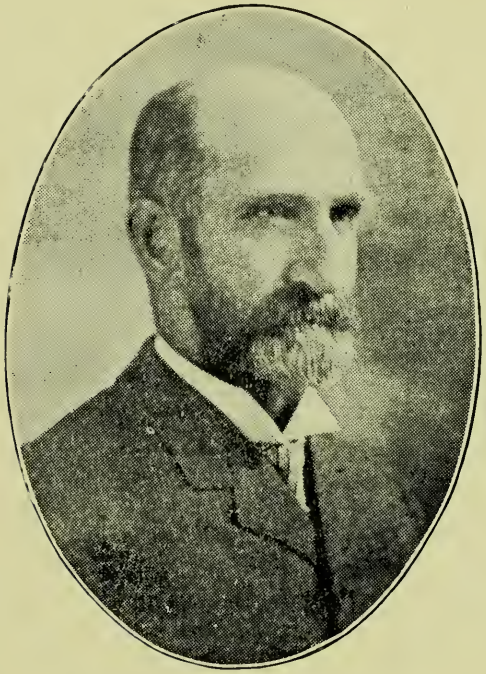
Thomas G. Newkirk.

In 1814, when 16 years of age, Thomas G. Newkirk came to this village from Kingston, on the Hudson, intending to enter upon the study of law with his cousin, Henry VanDerLyn, Esq., but finally decided to engage in the mercantile business, and commenced as a clerk for Gen. Ransom Rathbone. In the year 1831 he formed a partnership with Epaphras Miller, which terminated in 1836, when he formed a partnership with his brother Warden, and traded a few years under the firm name of T. G. Newkirk & Co. He continued in business for a number of years, associated a portion of the time with his son, Frederick P., and Ward VanDerLyn. For many years Mr. Newkirk served St. Paul's parish as vestryman and as

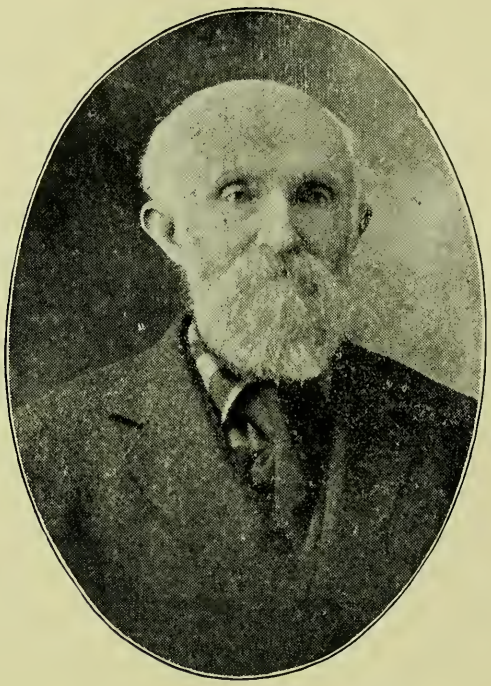
warden, and gained the utmost respect and confidence of the community. He died March 24, 1875, aged 76. In 1826 Mr. Newkirk married Elizabeth L., daughter of Capt. Frederick Hopkins, who died Sunday evening, October 15, 1899, at the advanced age of 95 years and 6 months. Mrs. Newkirk was born at Derby, Conn., April 22, 1804, and came with her parents to Oxford three years later. At an early age she taught school near the present farm residence of I. P. Fitch, and was paid for her services half in money and half in grain. As was the custom she boarded around the district. She often related one experience where they had potpie for dinner, and which she and the family enjoyed and partook of freely. At the close of the meal she was asked what kind of potpie she had been eating. "Why, veal, of course," she answered. "Oh, no, that's woodchuck," was the reply. Mrs. Newkirk would laughingly say, that she immediately pushed back from the table, stepped into the yard and in a very short time had got rid of "that woodchuck potpie."

Mrs. Newkirk was one of the early students of Oxford Academy, and previous to her death was believed to have been the oldest living student of this institution. She was a devoted wife and mother, a faithful and consistent member of St. Paul's church, and a friend and neighbor in all that words imply. Children:

Frederick P., born April 24, 1827; married December 12, 1855, Phebe Arminda Yale of Guilford, N. Y., a direct descendant of Elihu Yale, founder of Yale University. For twenty years from 1853 he was in the mercantile business with Ward VanDerLyn and on the dissolution of the firm they purchased the Westover farm. After three years Mr. VanDerLyn sold his interest to his partner, who still owns the property. Mr. Newkirk has served the town as supervisor and for several terms has been a justice of the



CHAS. M. STONE



FREDERICK P. NEWKIRK

peace. In 1905 Mr. and Mrs. Newkirk celebrated their golden wedding at which they received hearty congratulations from a host of friends at home and abroad. Nearly 600 guests were present. The reception was from 3 to 9 o'clock, after which Harrington's hall was opened and dancing participated in till a late hour. Children: Peter V., married Ada M. Ransom of Montour Falls, N. Y. Clerk at First National Bank, Oxford. (One daughter, Elizabeth.) Frank B., married Carrie B. Foote of Oxford. Engineer on Lackawanna railroad, and resides at Cincinnatus. (One son, George Frederick.)

SARAH JANE, born May 12, 1830, died October 29, 1859, greatly mourned by her mother and friends.

Myron Robbins.

Myron Robbins, a worthy colored man, came to Oxford about the year 1840 from Sherburne, where he was born in 1809. He died March 21, 1865. In 1842 he married Maria Randall of Oxford, born November 15, 1819; died July 28, 1879. Their children were born in Oxford, but one of whom survives: THERON H., served in Civil war and died at home within a few months after honorable discharge; FRANCES P., died at Delhi, December 28, 1897; married Marcus Randall, who died in Oxford several years previous; PETER A., resides at Delhi, unmarried; JANE C., died September 12, 1868, aged 16, in Oxford.

John Randall, better known as "Jack," father of Mrs. Robbins, married Julia A. Crawford. She was a slave in the Jewell family, and their marriage was a runaway match. Mr. Randall worked many years for the Jewells to earn his wife's freedom.

Skill'd in the globe and sphere, he gravely stands,
And with his compass, measures seas and lands.
—DRYDEN.

Captain Frederick Hopkins.

Captain Frederick Hopkins of Derby, Conn., accompanied by Solomon Bundy of Huntington, Conn., came to Oxford in the summer of 1806, both on horseback. In the following spring he brought his wife and infant daughter, Elizabeth, in an old fashioned schooner drawn by a yoke of oxen with a horse in the lead, via Catskill and the old State road. Captain Hopkins, while yet in his teens, served in the Revolutionary war, and was the last pensioner of '76 in Chenango county. An elder brother was on General Washington's staff and Mr. Hopkins had the honorable distinction of once dining with the Father of his Country. After the war he became a sea captain and on one of his voyages to the West Indies was captured by the French, losing his vessel and entire cargo. In 1814, when St. Paul's church was established in Oxford, he was elected senior warden and continued for many years faithfully to discharge the duties of that office. His death occurred June 23, 1855, at the age of 87. Captain Hopkins married (1) ——— Pickett; married (2) Susan Smith, who died June 16, 1858, aged 78.

Children by first wife:

ALISON, married January 25, 1820, Polly Dickinson of Oxford. Children: James, Andrew, Charles, Sheldon, Calena, married Jesse H. Gifford.

AUGUSTUS RUFUS, born February 10, 1779, in Derby, Conn.; died June 7, 1870, in Oxford; married Mary Wil-

son of Oxford, born January 16, 1804, died March 22, 1893. Children: Frederick, born May 15, 1836, married Phœbe Coy (child, George F.); Susan C., died in infancy; James A., born May 22, 1844, married Maria Tucker (children, George F., died in infancy, Nellie L., Anna M.).

Charles E., died January 16, 1864, aged 62; unmarried.

Children by second wife:

Elizabeth L., married Thomas G. Newkirk.

John F., died July 4, 1893, in Oxford, aged 87; married (1) Julia Beard; married (2) Jane E. Lobdell, who died February 22, 1895, in Oxford.

Sarah A., married John Van Wagenen, November 13, 1833, born December 12, 1807, died December 26, 1886.

Susan, died in early womanhood.

In the long run a man becomes what he purposes, and gains for himself what he really desires.

—Hamilton Wright Mabie.

Solomon Bundy.

Solomon Bundy accompanied Capt. Frederick Hopkins on horseback to Oxford on that summer's day in 1806, and with him put up at the tavern kept by Erastus Perkins. The following day was Sunday and the travelers were out early viewing the town. Returning to the house they were approached by a guest, who said: "Gentlemen, I see you are strangers in our little hamlet and I would be pleased to have you take a drink with me." They acquiesced and the hospitable citizen soon took his departure. The travelers were quite anxious to learn the name of the man who was so considerate of them, and inquired of the

landlord: "Who is the gentleman with the black coat and white cravat whom we have had the pleasure of meeting?" "Why, that is our Presbyterian minister," replied Mr. Perkins. "He is doing excellent work in the ministry, and I assure you he would be pleased to have you attend his meeting to-day." They attended. Monday morning the travelers rode over the east hill to look at a farm of 200 acres owned by Gerrit Burghardt, which they purchased. The following spring they moved their families on the farm and lived for a year or more in the same dwelling, for many years thereafter known as the Capt. Hopkins' house. When Mr. Bundy and family moved from there, it was into a new house a quarter of a mile nearer the village, the same, with many alterations now occupied by W. J. Redmond. Mr. Bundy died February 24, 1851, while on a visit to his son, Oliver T., at Windsor, N. Y. Jane Fraser, his wife, who was a native of Huntington, Conn., died August 22, 1846, aged 70. Mrs. Bundy was very fond of children and delighted in entertaining them. She had a way of roasting apples and potatoes for them in the ashes covered over with live coals in the kitchen fire-place, and when done they tasted better than any prepared at home. She had a way too of getting the butternut and beechnut meats for them that none ever tasted quite as good elsewhere. Children:

Oliver T., born January 31, 1801; died January 9, 1874, in Deposit, N. Y. Married Lydia Smith of Wellsboro, Pa. Practiced medicine in Deposit.

Rachel, born May 14, 1803; died August 15, 1866, in Oxford. Unmarried.

Jane Maria, born September 17, 1805. Married Rev. James Noble and moved to Iowa, where she died.

Nathan, born July 22, 1807, in Oxford; died May 3, 1846, in Harford, N. Y. Married Hannah Hawks.

AMELIA, born August 27, 1811, in Oxford; died October 29, 1851, in Oxford. Unmarried.

PHILO, born February 10, 1814, in Oxford; died June 1, 1901, in Oswego. Married (1) in 1842, Margaret A. Burt, who died in 1868. Married (2) in 1870, Catherine Van-Dyck, who died in 1899. Had five daughters by first wife, and one by second wife. He was educated in Oxford Academy and taught several terms in the common schools. In 1838 went to Oswego and engaged in the grain trade. In 1862 was made a paymaster in the U. S. army with the rank of Major. Was also deputy collector of the Port of Oswego.

SOPHIA LOUISE, born June 30, 1816, in Oxford; married George Manwaring and moved to Iowa. Died August 20, 1891 in South West City, Mo.

EDWARD AUGUSTUS, born November 6, 1819, in Oxford; died May 13, 1892 in Oxford. Married (1) Esther Shapley; married (2) Eliza Burlison. Resided on the homestead for many years. Came to the village and for several terms was a civil magistrate.

SOLOMON, born May 22, 1823, in Oxford; died January 13, 1889; married (1) June 28, 1846, Roxanna Hitchcock of Oxford; born December 25, 1821; died July 28, 1848. Married (2) Elizabeth A. McGeorge of Oxford, born October 20, 1827. Resides at Grand Rapids, Mich. Mr. Bundy was the first child baptized in the Presbyterian church. His early life was spent in working on the farm during the summer season. He received a common school education, which was liberally supplemented by his private studies and extensive readings. Soon after his second marriage he removed to the village and engaged in the boot and shoe business, and later entered the law office of James W. Glover as a student. While pursuing his studies he held the office of justice of peace and clerk of the Board

of Supervisors. Admitted to the bar in 1859, he soon formed a law partnership with Horace Packer. In 1862 he was elected District Attorney of Chenango county, and in 1876 was elected to the Forty-fifth Congress.

Child, by first wife: ELIZABETH R., now practicing medicine in Philadelphia.

Children by second wife: NATHAN A., married Ella M. Hull of Oxford. Now resides in Philadelphia. Children: Elizabeth, married Joseph A. Culbert of Philadelphia; Kate, married Daniel Burke, Esq., of Brooklyn; Agnes, married James H. Millhouse of Buffalo, N. Y.

MCGEORGE, married Mary G. Hollister, now practicing law in Grand Rapids, Mich. Children: Nathan Hollister, born May 18, 1886; Harvey Hollister, born March 30, 1888; Frederick McGeorge, born January 4, 1900.

Thy wit is as quick as the greyhound's mouth—it catches.

—SHAKESPEARE.

Isaac Sherwood.

Isaac Sherwood, a native of Connecticut, was born in 1768. At an early age he moved to Oxford and began the practice of law, in which profession he rose rapidly. He held the office of judge of the county, was justice of the peace for a long term of years, and was supervisor of the town for a number of years. Later he embarked in the mercantile tailoring business in this village, and also became a large land owner. He married a Miss Smith, a native of Connecticut. Children: Samuel S., and Rebecca.

Samuel S., married Catherine Bessac, a native of

France. She was descended from a long line of French ancestry, who were known in history for their chivalry and important services rendered the French government. After clerking for some time in his father's store, his father gave him a fine farm, still known as the Sherwood farm above the W. R. C. Home. He immediately moved upon it and followed agricultural pursuits the rest of his life, and through energy and good judgment made a successful farmer. He died in 1846. Mrs. Sherwood died October 6, 1821, aged 34. Children: John, Mary, Harriet, Catherine, married James Bennett; Isaac S.

Rebecca, married (1) Charles Denison of Oxford; married (2) John Judson of Oxford; married (3) ——— Hoxcie.

Isaac S. Sherwood, son of Samuel S. and Catherine (Bessac) Sherwood, born September 18, 1816, in Oxford; died January 13, 1898, in Oxford; married September 12, 1837, Abigail Tiffany of Sherburne, N. Y., born in 1817; died in 1896 in Oxford. Mr. Sherwood was born upon the farm upon which he lived and died. In his early days, being an excellent penman, he accepted a position to copy deeds and legal papers and to settle estates; he also became a prominent figure in the courts, being clerk for different lawyers. For a few years he clerked in a village store, but later devoted his attention to farming. During a long term of years he was a popular auctioneer of farming and household goods, his ready wit and free command of language making him a successful dealer in that line of trade. He invariably looked upon the humorous side of life, and his reputation as a wit and eccentric character was more than local. He seldom wrote in a serious vein, as was frequently illustrated by advertisements, auction bills, and rhyming notices that were posted at the watering trough near his residence, also the original mottoes that adorned

the walls of his home. Mr. Sherwood was a true sportsman, expert with gun and rod. During the latter years of his life he devoted much time to the collection of native birds, which he himself skillfully mounted, and to which was added many rare and foreign birds, contributed by friends. In June, 1896, he presented this large and valuable collection to Oxford Academy. Mr. Sherwood received his education at Oxford Academy. He was popular in town and county, and was a member of Oxford Lodge, No. 175, F. & A. M. He was elected supervisor of the town and a trustee of Oxford Academy several years. His later days were spent in quiet retirement from active labor, and his passing was felt by the community at large. His burial was beside his wife on a high knoll upon the farm, which commands an extensive and beautiful view up and down the Chenango Valley.

For man to assist man is to be a god; this is the path to eternal glory.

—PLINY.

D. M. Lee, M. D.

Dwight Morgan Lee. M. D., was born at Georgetown, Madison county, January 25, 1843. His father, Rev. Hiram W. Lee, D. D., was a Presbyterian clergyman; and the early education of the son was obtained at Cincinnatus Academy. In 1863 he graduated from Hamilton College, Clinton, from which he received the degree of A. B. He began to read medicine in 1861, at Earlville, under Dr. D. J. Ressegieu; attended two courses of lectures in the Medical Department of the University of New York, and

at Albany Medical College, graduating from the latter, December 27, 1864. He immediately entered the army as assistant surgeon of the 22d N. Y. V. Cavalry, was promoted surgeon by brevet, and remained until mustered out of service in August, 1865. The following month he commenced the practice of medicine at Smithville Flats, remaining till March, 1867, when he came to Oxford, continuing his practice successfully till his death, which occurred October 5, 1895.

.Dr. Lee was a member of the Chenango County Medical Society; the Medical Association of Central New York, and the Medical Society of the State of New York. Was one of the original pension examiners; president of the corporation, 1881-7 and 1892; past master and past high priest of Masonic lodge and chapter, and a member of the Commandery. In later years he gave special attention to diseases of the eye and ear.

Dr. Lee married in 1866, Elizabeth E., daughter of John R. and Susan S. (Hough) Gleason. Children: Charles D., married Johanna Bayer of Breslau, Germany; Hiram A., died in infancy; Zaida B; and Walter C.

The Town Clock.

In the spring of 1850 a number of enterprising citizens joined in raising a fund for the purchase of a town clock, which, during the month of May was placed in the tower of the old Episcopal church on Fort Hill, by Messrs. Hopkins & Millard of De Ruyter, at a cost of $265. It remained there until 1864, when the church was taken down. In 1867 a tower was built on the Fort Hill block for the

clock and a fire bell. In 1887 the works became worn and the clock ceased running.

On the evening of August 8, 1902, The Ladies' Village Improvement Society, having procured a new clock at a cost of $650, presented it to the village at a lawn fete held on Fort Hill. The Citizens Band was present and rendered some of their most choice music. Nathan P. Stanton, Esq., in behalf of the ladies made the presentation speech, and Hon. S. S. Stafford, in behalf of the village accepted the gift in a few well chosen words. An excellent supper was served and a delightful evening was spent.

By the fireside still the light is shining,
The children's arms round the parent's twining;
From love so sweet, O who would roam?
Be it ever so homely, home is home.
—Dinah Mulock Craik.

Nehemiah Smith.

The most of the old settlers who came here during the early part of the nineteenth century were poor in pocket, but, possessed of an unlimited amount of energy and perseverance, and having faith in the country, "stuck it out," and were successful. Among them were Nehemiah Smith, the third of that name, a native of Lyme, Conn., who settled on Fort Hill in this village in 1801. He was a carpenter and cabinet maker, which vocation he pursued till his death in December, 1835. Elizabeth (Gee) Smith, his widow, died in 1858. Children:

Erastus, married Sophia McNeil, died in Buffalo, October 26, 1847.

Susan, developed into a beautiful girl, and while in

young womanhood started alone on a lengthy journey. She was never again seen by her family, although traced to Utica, nothing definite was ever known in regard to her fate.

SALLY, married (1) ——— Peabody; married (2) Asa Sheldon. Died in Oxford. Child by first husband: Susan C. Peabody. Married David L. Sherwood of Oxford.

FANNY, married John Crosier; died January 20, 1886, aged 73, in Buffalo. Child: Fanny, died in infancy.

ESTHER, married William Terrel; died July 26, 1876, aged 72, in Buffalo. Child: James, died May 12, 1906, aged 80 years; married Alinda Crannell.

EUNICE, died in Oxford. Unmarried.

NANCY, married Stephen Bentley; died in Ellicottville, N. Y. Children: Ada, Burr, Anna.

ABIGAIL, married William Sherwood of Oxford; died August 21, 1850, in Norwich.

NEHEMIAH, 4th., married Susan Gordon of Oxford; died June 14, 1873. Children: Jane, died December 26, 1901; married John Thurber; (their children: Elizabeth, married Warren Smith; Ida, married George Ketchum; Minnie, married Delbert Jenks; Dell R., married Jennie Sharp; Guerdon, died unmarried). Sophia E., born October 19, 1828, married Hiram D. Walworth, died December 3, 1905. (Children: Louise W., married Edward B. Loomis; Susie E.) Margaret, died in 1856, unmarried. Almira, married LaFayette Briggs. (Child: Margaret E., married G. B. Bretz of Brooklyn.) Nehemiah, 5th, married Sarah Barr. (Children: George, N. Y. C. R. R. mail agent; Charlotte; Matilda, married Frank Root; Elizabeth.)

JAMES, died in New Orleans. Unmarried.

CHARLES, died in California. Unmarried.

BETSEY, died in 1836, in Oxford. Unmarried.

It is uncertain in what place death may await thee; therefore expect it in any place.

—SENECA.

Frederick Greene.

Frederick Greene came at an early date from Dutchess county and located in Oxford. He married Sophia Baldwin, daughter of Jonathan and Parthenia (Stanford) Baldwin. His death occurred August 13, 1846, in Oxford. Mrs. Greene died July 22, 1885, at Grand Rapids, Mich.

Children:

HARVEY M., born November 23, 1837, commenced the practice of medicine in November, 1868, and in January, 1870, removed to Grand Rapids, Mich. December 12, 1872, he left that city for Dutchess county to be married and stopped in New York to transact business, where he was stricken with apoplexy and died on the 17th of that month.

BRADFORD G., born April 16, 1839, in Steuben county; died suddenly December 6, 1896, at his residence on Clinton street, now owned by Dr. Chas. B. Payne. Married September 7, 1870, Marania Sisson of Norwich. Children: Frederick B., married Minnie A. Howard; Harry, resides at Greenfield, Mass.

Mr. Greene was public spirited and untiring in his devotion to public improvement. Upon finishing his education at Oxford Academy he entered the office of Dr. Eccleston to learn dentistry. In October, 1861, he enlisted in the navy, being assigned to duty as surgeon and steward on the gunboat Port Royal, and afterwards in transport service. In 1863 he entered the merchant marine, where he continued two years, serving under his flag at many

European stations, principally in the Mediterranean. In 1865 he returned to Oxford and resumed dentistry, which he continued a short time, and was soon after engaged at the jeweler's bench in the store of H. H. Cady. A year later Coville & Moore succeeded Mr. Cady, and Mr. Greene continued with them for about sixteen years, in the meantime taking the ticket and express agency for the N. Y. O. & W. R'y., and subsequently adding the coal business. Mr. Greene had an agreeable disposition, enjoyed hearing and telling a good story, in which he was an adept; and had a good word for everyone and everywhere. He was an active member of Breed Post, G. A. R., and also of Oxford Lodge, F. & A. M. He was one of the incorporators and a director of the Excelsior Mutual Insurance Company. He was largely instrumental in procuring the adoption of the Union Free School system and the passage of the necessary resolutions to provide for the erection of the building. He was appointed postmaster under the administration of Benj. Harrison, which position he occupied four years and eight months.

Charles F., born January 4, 1842; Corporal Co. H., 114th Reg't., N. Y. S. V., during Civil war. Killed at battle of Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864.

Clara C., graduated from Oxford Academy and taught for nearly thirty years in the Grand Rapids, Mich., public schools. She left her home July 2, 1903, in that city, and for several days the mystery surrounding her disappearance was not cleared until her body was found in the suburbs of the city behind a piece of underbrush. Indications pointed that death was due to poison taken with suicidal intent. The body was cremated and the ashes sent to Oxford and placed within the grave of her mother.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Await alike the inevitable hour,
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

—Gray.

VanWagenen Family.

Gerrit Huybert Van Wagenen, son of Huybert and Angenietje (Agnes) Vreden Burgh VanWagenen, born at No. 5 Beekman slip, now 33 Fulton street, New York, January 21, 1753; died November 20, 1835, in Oxford; married March 11, 1783, Sarah, daughter of Derick and Rachel (VanRanst) Brinckerhoff, born November 5, 1764, in New York; died December 9, 1833, in Oxford.

Gerrit VanWagenen was a Revolutionary soldier and received the appointment of second lieutenant in the 8th company commanded by Captain John Quackenbos, in Colonel McDougal's regiment, being the first regiment in the New York State troops. He left New York in August, 1775, with part of the regiment for Canada, and participated in the storming of Quebec in the columns of General Montgomery. He remained in Canada till May, 1776, when he returned to New York in charge of prisoners whom he was ordered to take to Philadelphia. Returning to New York and finding the British were landing on Long Island, he offered his services to General Sullivan, and was sent by him with four other officers to the Jamaica Pass. The entire party was captured, and he was held as prisoner twenty-two months, when he was exchanged. He then received an appointment in the department of Commissary of Prisoners, with the pay and rations of a major, which office he held three years, being stationed most of

the time at Fishkill and West Point. After the war he engaged with his father in the hardware business in New York, which the latter had carried on at No. 5 Beekman slip since 1760. This was dissolved May 1, 1791, and he continued the business by himself, and afterwards with his son Hubert, till about 1820, when it was sold out to others. He was a vestryman of Trinity church from 1808 to 1811. In 1821 he removed to Oxford, where he established the first hardware store in the south end of the Hotchkiss House. He subsequently built and occupied a store on Washington park. He was largely engaged in the purchase and sale of land, and at his death owned about two thousand acres between the Chenango and Unadilla rivers. Mr. VanWagenen built on Lyon brook, then affording a good water power, a grist mill, carding, or woolen mill, and a saw mill. At the time of his removal to Oxford his household goods and merchandise were brought on sloops up the North river and carted over the Catskill mountains to Oxford. Bishop Hobart, one of the early pioneers of the church and whose diocese was the entire State of New York, was an intimate friend of the family and was accustomed to make his headquarters at their house, and from there made his visitations to the surrounding parishes. Mr. VanWagenen was a liberal contributor to all religious and public enterprises. By his will he established the VanWagenen missionary fund for the support of a missionary of the Protestant Episcopal church in the county of Chenango, and the VanWagenen cemetery was bequeathed to St. Paul's church of Oxford.

Children:

Rachel, born October 5, 1783, in New York; died May 8, 1839, in New York; married in 1811 Tyler Maynard, an attorney-at-law, who died in 1817 in the West Indies.

Hubert, born February 3, 1785, in New York; died Octo-

ber 31, 1852, in Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; married March 20, 1808, Mary Wheeler of Red Hook, N. Y.

Richard and Gerrit, twins, born November 22, 1786; died in infancy.

Agnes, born December 12, 1787, in New York; died February 13, 1868, in Oxford; married June 18, 1822, in Oxford, Erastus Perkins.

Sarah, born July 4, 1791, in New York; died in infancy.

Wilhelmina Maria, born March 24, 1793, in New York; died November 2, 1873, in Oxford; unmarried.

Sarah Brinckerhoff, born December 20, 1794, in New York; died December 21, 1878, in Oxford; unmarried.

Catherine, born October 2, 1796, in Newtown, L. I.; died February 14, 1886; unmarried.

Richard, born October 8, 1798, in Newtown, L. I.; died September 27, 1837, in St. Josephs, Mich.; unmarried.

Gerrit, born November 6, 1800, in New York; died September 27, 1858, in New Brunswick, N. J.; married March 17, 1835, Anna C. Pierrepont of Brooklyn, N. Y.

William, born July 26, 1802, in New York; died December 6, 1864, in Oxford; married January 8, 1840, Ursula A., daughter of James A. and Ann (Bradley) Glover of Oxford; died May 24, 1887, in Oxford. Children: John Richard, born November 9, 1841; married December 26, 1872, Clara L., daughter of George W. and Clarissa (Whitmore) Lester of Binghamton, N. Y. Mr. Van Wagenen was supervisor of Oxford in 1868, elected county treasurer in 1872, and is now president of the First National Bank of Oxford; (children, Helen M., William Lester, Henry Tracy, Florence, Harold W., and Ursula). James G., born December 1, 1845, in Oxford; married April 9, 1867, Mary E., daughter of Stephen H. and Mary (Gillman) Millard of Oxford; he was in service in the Civil war in Co. L, 20th N. Y. Cavalry, which was the advance

regiment into Richmond at the surrender; (child, Anna M., married Jared C. Estelow of Oxford). Anna G., born September 24, 1853; died in infancy. Mary E., born February 21, 1857; married August 25, 1886, William W. Lester of South Norwalk, Conn.

JOHN, born July 28, 1804, in New York; died July 2, 1846, in Oxford; married November 13, 1833, Sarah A., daughter of Captain Frederick and Susan (Smith) Hopkins of Oxford, born December 12, 1807; died December 26, 1886, in Oxford. Children: William Hubert, born November 11, 1837; married January 21, 1874, Anna L., daughter of Jacob and Sarah J. Selden of Williamstown, N. Y.; in drug business twenty-seven years in Oxford; residence Rome, N. Y.; (children, all born in Oxford, Sarah Louise, Grace S., married Arthur F. Carpenter of Rome; Nellie E.). Susan Elizabeth, married June 6, 1866, Major Oscar Henry Curtis of Oxford, who died December 26, 1903.

If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

—FRANKLIN.

Kinney Family.

Solomon Kinney died November 14, 1839, in Oxford. He married (1) Grace Wise, a native of Connecticut; married (2) Phila Gifford.

Samuel Kinney, only child of Solomon and Grace (Wise) Kinney, married Amelia Crumb of Stonington, Conn. He died April 3, 1847, and his wife's death occurred Decem-

ber 22, 1865. Their children were: Charles Albert, Susan, Mary Mead, Samuel Wise, and Jane Elizabeth.

Samuel Wise Kinney was a prominent and well-known farmer of Oxford, where he resided during his lifetime. He was born June 5, 1821, and died June 6, 1894. Mr. Kinney was twice married; his first wife was Sophia Symonds of Oxford, born January 11, 1819; died November 25, 1864. His second wife was Mrs. Huldah (Seeley) Jeffords, who survives and resides in a western state. Children by first wife: HENRY, died June —, 1883; married Frances M. Rowley of Guilford. FRANCES, married Archilaus Haynes of Colesville, N. Y. ISABELLA, died April 8, 1851, in infancy. WARD, married Helen Minor of McPherson, Kan., where he resides. CHARLOTTE, married Edgar W. Edmunds of Oakville, N. Y., and resides on the old homestead.

"But what good came of it at last?"
Quoth little Peterkin.
"Why that I cannot tell," said he;
"But 'twas a famous victory."

—SOUTHEY.

In Military Days.

Few incidents in the past attracted so much attention as that of the muster of the local citizen soldiers at "general training," or drills and muster under the militia system. The event was looked forward to with pleasure, as it gave the men a chance to meet old acquaintances, and the boys to invest their pennies in the inevitable gingerbread. The companies, glittering with tinsel and flaunting with

feathers, were duly paraded through the maneuvers on "the green," much to the satisfaction of all emancipated school boys and idlers.

The militia consisted of all able-bodied white male citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty-five. Among those exempt from military duty were clergymen, school teachers, students in colleges or academies, and members of fire companies; though in cases of insurrection or invasion all but clergymen and teachers could be called upon.

Each militia company was obliged to assemble for training on the first Monday in September; and between September 1 and October 15, at a place designated by the commander of the brigade, the regiment was directed to assemble for one day's general training. Each militiaman was personally notified of an approaching muster, and failure to appear or to bring the necessary equipments resulted in a court-martial and a fine, unless a satisfactory excuse could be given. Those who could not pay were imprisoned in the county jail. The military spirit that existed in those days was a prominent feature of the country in general. Many that gathered every fall at "general training" had seen active service in the Revolutionary war. Almost every large town had its militia company, but in Oxford they had an artillery company and a cannon. Simon Throop was the captain, and with his sword, epaulets, black feather, black coat trimmed with red, and red topped chapeau, he appeared to the youth of that day greater than any king or potentate. Peter Sken Smith, soon after he came to Oxford, entered into the spirit of the community and raised the first company of riflemen in the county, which in a short time developed into a battalion, and for several years were applauded for their military bearing. About the same time, Wayne Berry of Preston was captain of a cavalry company that looked very

attractive and valiant. They appeared at the yearly musters at Oxford and Norwich, but the horses, excepting the captain's, looked as though they enjoyed the harrow and plow much better than the military ordeal to which they were subjected, especially late in the day, when the captain always showed himself on his favorite steed to the terror of all beholders.

The place of meeting for muster was designated by the commanding officer, and the sale of spiritous liquors on the grounds could only be carried on by special permission of this officer. Total abstinence was not the rule by any means, and any officer had the right to take a bottle from a private and destroy it, but the contents were usually stowed away about the officer's person, and often the burden was rather heavy to carry conveniently.

At "general trainings" the regiment was made up of odd, ill-sorted, and ungainly men for the most part. Men from the back hills, who sometimes came in barefooted, carrying their boots and militia outfit in a bundle; cobblers, tailors, and farm hands from neighboring hamlets, short, tall, fat, lean, bow-legged, sheep-shanked, cock-eyed, hump-shouldered, and sway-backed, equipped by art as economically, awkwardly, and variously as they were endowed by nature. The officers of the volunteer companies, on the other hand, were generally selected for their handsome appearance and martial bearing. There were also a few veterans of the war of 1812, who were noticeable for their precise bearing and contempt for their crude companions.

As before mentioned, the regiment assembled yearly for general training between September 1 and October 15, usually for one day, though sometimes they were on parade for a longer time. On one occasion they camped in Oxford for a week, and about forty officers' tents were pitched.

On Monday and Tuesday the officers of the regiment met for drill. On Wednesday the uniformed militia, numbering 400, with nearly as many more without uniforms, met their officers for parade, inspection, and review. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday the uniformed continued in the field, drilling and exercising. There were organized companies present from neighboring towns besides the Oxford companies. Stalwart Captain Zadoc Adams of the Rifle Brigade of Preston combined the greatest tact, skill, and pride in military evolutions, and the exhibition drill given by his company in uniforms of gray, and their military band, was an event not soon to be forgotten. Brigadier-General Rathbone reviewed the militia; General DeForrest the cavalry, and General Peter Sken Smith the rifles.

On the occasion of a military review Major Benjamin Ray, a Revolutionary veteran, would come from Norwich in great state, accompanied by Captain Harvey of Preston, a patriot of '76, to enjoy the events. The Major also had another comrade, Jason Gleason, who was sometimes called "Bildad," whom he would, in the height of his excitement, enthusiastically punch in the ribs and exclaim, referring to General Peter Sken Smith: "What eyes!" "Remember the battle of Monmouth, bub?"

Captain Wayne Berry would loudly declaim on the fading glories of the past, and irreverently proclaim that certain judicial functionaries then on the bench should "withdraw" and give place to better men, by reason that "they could not stand so much popularity." "Perez, Perez!" he would proudly exclaim, "Old Wayne foots the bill; eat like a fattin' hog!" At the same time making an assault on the gingerbread stands and drawing from his pocket a well-filled purse, from which he promptly settled all bills.

He wears a brown old Brunswick coat,
With silver buttons,—round his throat,
A soft cravat;—in all you note
An elder fashion.

—Dobson.

Lewis Family.

Samuel Lewis, born May 20, 1744, in Voluntown, Conn., now a part of New London, came to Preston, N. Y., in the spring of 1804 with his wife and seven children. They made the trip in covered wagons and were a month on the way. He settled on Fly Meadow creek, on the farm occupied by his grandson, Samuel E., during his lifetime, now owned by Jerry Sharp. Samuel served in the Revolutionary war as private in Captain Benjamin West's company in Colonel John Topham's Reg't. (R. I.). He married Sarah Edwards, born August 18, 1750, and died May 1, 1831. Mr. Lewis died February 9, 1818, both having lived and died upon the farm which they settled.

Among the children who accompanied them was Clark, born February 20, 1778, in Rhode Island, and died October 27, 1853, in Preston. He married Mary Willcox of Exeter, R. I., who died November 21, 1855, in Preston. Children:

Eunice, born in Rhode Island; died May 19, 1873, aged 70, in Norwich; married Elnathan Terry, whose death occurred June 25, 1866, in Norwich, aged 71.

Mary, born November 18, 1804, in Preston; died January 27, 1883, in Bainbridge; married Charles Eccleston of Preston.

Stephen, born August 7, 1806, in Preston; died January 20, 1892, in Oxford; married Aurilla Eccleston, born

August 29, 1810, in Preston; died December 9, 1885, in Oxford. Children: Hiram E., born February 7, 1838; died March 22, 1880, in Oxford; married Jane Webb. Henry C., twin to Hiram, died June 12, 1892, in Oxford; married Mercy Edmunds. Arvine S., married Sarah Loomis of Smithville; resides in Oxford.

Clark, born December 23, 1808, in Preston; died July 31, 1893, in Oxford; married October 22, 1839, Mary Stratton of South Oxford; born May 26, 1821, in South Oxford; died March 21, 1873, in Oxford. Children: George W., enlisted in the United States Navy August 15, 1862, for one year, and was discharged October 15, 1863. He enlisted from New York and first served on U. S. Bark "Arthur" from Pensecola, Fla., for about five months. Transferred to U. S. Bark "Anderson," for a time on blockade duty at Aransas Pass, Texas. Married Olive A. Brooks of Oxford, who died March 31, 1904. Marietta, married (1) J. B. Jenkins of Oneida; married (2) A. Van-Emburgh of Ridgewood, N. J. Charlotte A., married Enoch Henry Currier, principal of the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb.

Before coming to Oxford Clark Lewis was for a few years engaged in the lumber business in Pennsylvania. In 1838 he came to Oxford and in partnership with his brother Stephen bought the grist and saw mill one mile south of the village. In 1850 he bought the plaster, grist, and lumber mill in the village, now owned by Fletcher and Corbin; here he did a large business, as he had a planing mill in connection with the plant. Before the Civil war he did a thriving business in plaster and employed many hands at the mill. During the winter months when the sleighing was at its height the farmers coming from neighboring towns, Morris, Unadilla, Sidney, and other outlying villages, would reach Oxford in the afternoon, trade at the

stores, spend the night at the hotel, and in the early morning get their load of plaster and start for home. Up to the serious flood of 1865 he had prospered and acquired wealth, but the great losses he sustained in mill and stock from water damage ruined him, and he never recovered therefrom. Previous to this he erected the building known as the Lewis block, now owned by C. A. Gillman, T. C. Pettis, and T. W. Robinson, on the third floor of which was a ballroom extending the whole length of the building. This ballroom was on several occasions the scene of large dancing parties, under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity, and the firemen, and during the Civil war, luncheon was served in this same room to the 114th Regiment by the ladies of Oxford on their departure from and their return to the county. Mr. Lewis's residence was on Clinton street, now the home of C. O. Wilcox.

Hannah, born November 21, 1810, in Preston; died February 23, 1900, in McDonough; married September 4, 1836, William R. Burdick, born May 5, 1812, in Pharsalia, N. Y.; died March 3, 1893, in McDonough. He lived for some time in Oxford, where he learned the currier's trade in the Mygatt tannery. Children: Oresta L., married Rev. William L. Hiller; died November 6, 1901, in Parsons, Pa. Lewis Dayton, born in Guilford, N. Y.; was educated at Oxford Academy and Fairfield Seminary, Herkimer county. He entered Madison University, now Colgate, and completed nearly half the classical course when he left and enlisted in Co. K, 10th N. Y. Cavalry. He was commissioned second lieutenant with rank from September 30, 1862, but owing to protracted ill health resigned December 18, same year. Mr. Burdick taught public and private schools in Guilford, Otselic, Smithville, Earlville, and McDonough, and for some time was employed in the First National Bank of Oxford. He has

written occasionally for publications since 1860 on literary, political, religious, historical, and oriental subjects. He is the author of several books, which have received many flattering notices from the leading journals of the country. His books have been published in the order named, viz.: Through Field and Wood, Foundation Rites, Magic and Husbandry, Oriental Studies, and The Hand. Mr. Burdick resides in Oxford, and is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Folk-Lore Society, and Corresponding Member of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Sarah L., died June 9, 1875, in McDonough, unmarried. Mary E., married William Eber Jones and resides in Oxford. Erford W., married Charlotte Brundige of Gilbertsville, and resides in Chicago. Ellen H., died December 4, 1878, in McDonough, unmarried. Henry R., died in childhood.

Sarah, born July 24, 1813, in Preston; died January 3, 1814, in Preston.

Samuel, twin to above, died August 29, 1816, in Preston.

Ira W., deaf mute, born March 16, 1815, in Preston; died suddenly November 21, 1893, in Preston; married Catherine P. Ellerson, deaf mute. Children: William, Prudence, Catherine, James, John, Charles, Sarah.

Edward, born August 16, 1817, in Preston; died in childhood.

Samuel E., born August 9, 1819, in Preston; died on the old homestead October 24, 1885; was a member of Assembly from this county in 1861. Married (1) Maryette Turner; married (2) Lydia Smith; married (3) Lemira D. Sanford. Children by second wife: Wilson D., deceased.

S. Edward. Child by third wife: Florence married Hubert C. Stratton, Esq., of Oxford.

SARAH E., died in childhood.

CLARINDA, died in childhood.

PRUDENCE, deaf mute, born November 21, 1826, in Preston; died June 18, 1906, in Oxford. She was educated in the Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb at Washington Heights, New York city, and this institution became her home for a large part of her life, for she returned to it as assistant matron, a position which she held for thirty-three years and relinquished only when compelled to by failing strength and advanced age. She had a wide acquaintance with the deaf and dumb, and was intimately associated with them all her life. She was of a kind and genial disposition and made friends with all whom she came in contact, and was respected, loved, and honored by all who knew her. For the last two years her home was with relatives in Oxford.

So sleeps the pride of former days,
So glory's thrill is o'er,
And hearts that once beat high for praise,
Now feel that pulse no more.

—MOORE.

Isaac J. Stratton.

Isaac J. Stratton was born November 13, 1782. He was the seventh son of a seventh son, a personage who has always been credited by the superstitious with supernatural powers, especially powers of healing. Mr. Stratton remembered that, when he was a child, children afflicted with King's evil, or scrofula, were sometimes

brought to him that he might touch them. September 11, 1803, he married Rachel, daughter of John and Rhoda Alger Punderson. The young couple, aged respectively 21 and 17, began their life together on a newly-cleared farm in Smithville, three miles from any neighbors. Mrs. Stratton's stories of this time became in after years the delight of her grandchildren. Mr. Stratton built the house with his own hands, and his only door was a blanket woven by Mrs. Stratton, a sort of great-grandmother to the modern portieres.

There were many Indians about, who, though not really unfriendly, were yet among the uncertain elements of life. One day Mrs. Stratton had just baked two loaves of bread before her open fire, and was putting them away on the shelf which served for a pantry, when a big Indian, blanketed and painted, appeared in the doorway and said: "Me want bread." She offered him one loaf, but he replied: "Me want more." One can imagine that it was a trying moment for the young wife, with no help near; but as she hesitated she heard the sound of her husband's ax far off in the forest and it gave her courage to answer: "No, you can have only one." She inwardly determined that Isaac should not come home, hungry and tired, and find nothing for his supper. Her tall visitor grunted, let us hope in admiration, and walked off with his half of the bread.

About 1807 they left this farm and moved to McDonough to be with Mrs. Stratton's father, Deacon John Punderson. In 1806 a son, Charles, was born, and in 1808 a daughter, Lydia, who in 1825 married Dr. Edward York. Soon after Mr. and Mrs. Stratton gave up the farm to their daughter and her husband, and about 1841 they themselves moved to Oxford, where Mrs. Stratton died January 2, 1861, at the age of 75. Her husband lived to be 91 and died Feb-

ruary 1, 1873. Their lives were full of helpfulness to all who needed help; but they are prominently among those whom children and children's children "rise up and call blessed."

Charles Stratton, son of Isaac J. and Rachel (Punderson) Stratton, was born January 8, 1806, in Smithville, N. Y. On August 22, 1839, while bathing in the Chenango canal with his father, he sank beneath the water and his body was not recovered for several hours. His father made a desperate attempt to rescue him, but, failing, summoned assistance. Mr. Stratton married February 7, 1827, Lovina Loomis of Smithville, born February 13, 1807; died January 3, 1870, at Upper Lisle, Broome county. Children:

Lydia, married Samuel Williams; died October 19, 1891, at Upper Lisle.

Louisa, married Joseph W. Hamilton; died December 2, 1892, aged 63 years, in Oxford.

Diana, married Horace J. Wood; died April 27, 1878, at Utica.

Isaac J., married Margaret Bartle; died March 28, 1903, at Portland, Oregon.

Charles E., married Marion L. Buckley, and resides in Oxford. Children: Elvie C., born November 2, 1859; died February 14, 1860. Flora L., born December 2, 1860; married Edwin L. Haynes. Hubert C., born December 5, 1863; married Florence Lewis. Robert B., born July 13, 1868; married Minnie B. Brown. Vernon D., born December 23, 1869; married Lottie McFarland. Nettie C., born November 14, 1873; died April 29, 1875, from scalds received from falling into a pail of hot water. Carroll I., born March 21, 1876; married Genevieve Carpenter.

May one be pardoned and retain the offense?
—SHAKESPEARE.

An Old Murder Trial.

Sunday, October 25, 1846, Coroner Callender was called to hold an inquest on the body of George Manwarring, Jr., who was found dead at the log house of his sister, Nancy Cady, three miles southwest of this village. The neighbors were called in during the night and found Manwarring upon a straw bed on the floor, lying partly on his right side with his face toward his breast. The Cady family, consisting of the mother, two young men, and two boys, were examined and the gist of their testimony was, that Manwarring came to their house drunk on Saturday night, shortly after dark, in company with Russel Cady, and went to bed with him. The latter stated that at midnight he discovered his companion dead and aroused the family. A post-morten examination was had, which elicited sufficient evidence to the Coroner's jury that they returned a verdict of death by violence. Warrants were issued and Mrs. Cady and her son Russel were arrested, jointly indicted, and committed for trial. At the term of the Circuit Court commencing September 13, 1847, Hon. Charles Mason, Justice, Russel Cady, at the age of 23, was on trial for murder. There were many dark circumstances which operated against the accused. Threats had been made against Manwarring's life; in a petty lawsuit he stood in their way; he was found dead in their dwelling; there were marks as of violence upon his person; cries were heard on the fatal night; conflicting stories were told by members of the family, and the general belief and opinion

of all who first saw the body was that violence was the cause of death. These were sufficient of themselves to justify not only strong suspicions, but to form a tolerably well-ground belief. To escape from this weight of testimony, it became necessary to prove that no murder had been committed. Failing to create a reasonable doubt of this in the opinion of the jury, under the rulings of the Court, the result was a conviction, and Russel Cady was sentenced to be hung on the 23d of November, 1847. His counsel carried the case to the Supreme Court on a bill of exceptions, and a second trial was commenced April 10, 1848, under more favorable auspices. The fact that a new trial had been granted admitted error in the first; and additional evidence was adduced to involve the cause of death in doubt and mystery. These doubts inured to the benefit of the prisoner, and the result was a verdict of acquittal. In the first trial of Mrs. Cady the jury were unable to agree upon a verdict. As the evidence was not as strong against her as it was against her son, and there being no probability of her conviction, she was discharged.

Not wealth nor ancestry, but honourable conduct and a noble disposition make men great.

—Ovid.

Joseph G. Thorp.

Joseph G. Thorp was born April 28, 1812, at Butternuts, Otsego county, where his father filled the pulpit of the Presbyterian church. He was early inured to the work of a farm, which both gave strength to his body and encouraged and stimulated habits of industry. Only those

limited school privileges were at hand which the country school-house provided; of such he made the most. With these aids at his command, together with energy, self-denial, and determination, the subject of this sketch rose to positions of credit, wealth and honor.

When Mr. Thorp was 17 years of age he began business as a clerk in the dry goods store of Ira Willcox. He entered upon his duties with the understanding that, in case of their faithful performance, he should receive a salary of fifty dollars a year with board. He continued as clerk on these terms for four years, and during three succeeding years at an increased salary, after which he became a partner in the dry goods business. When he arrived at middle life, after a partnership of several years with his brother-in-law, N. C. Chapman, he had become possessed of considerable property as well as of a practical knowledge of business and excellent reputation. The firm at length became interested in projects for more extended business operations which seemed to offer at the West. Their stock of goods was sold to Messrs. Miller and Perkins in the year 1856, and after engaging in banking for a time at Clinton, Iowa, they removed to the pineries of the Chippewa, having previously bought large tracts of lumber and mill property at Eau Claire, Wis. In 1868 the firm of Chapman & Thorp, with J. T. and S. C. Gilbert, obtained a charter from the State, and became incorporated as the Eau Claire Lumber Company, with a capital stock of $200,000, which was increased to $2,000,000.

Mr. Thorp served his State in the Senate for several years. He was a delegate to the National Convention that nominated Grant and Wilson.

Although so thoroughly a man of affairs, he strove to infuse commercial life with Christian principles and to join business and religion in a closer bond of union. Al-

ways a zealous friend of the Congregational church, to which he made generous contributions, he is well remembered as an earnest and active member of the society.

Mr. Thorp married Miss Amelia C. Chapman at Norwich February 21, 1838, whose death occurred April 24, 1893, at Santa Barbara, Cal. Mr. Thorp died January 13, 1895, at Cambridge, Mass., where the family had resided several years. Children: Louisa C., died October 1, 1848, aged 8. Charles G., died September 29, 1848, aged 4. Joseph G., Jr., married Miss Anna A., youngest daughter of Henry W. Longfellow, the poet laureate of America, and is a member of the bar of Massachusetts. Sara C., became the wife of Ole Bull, universally known as one of Norway's most distinguished sons.

Time spent in the cultivation of the fields passes very pleasantly.

—Ovid.

Warren Eaton.

Warren Eaton, born April 2, 1814, in Oxford; died suddenly April 7, 1889; married August 12, 1838, Eliza Penston.

Mr. Eaton, while yet a mere lad, entered the employ of Benjamin Butler on the Corn Hill farm, which, by assiduous application and persevering industry, he himself became the owner of in later life. He was one of Oxford's most successful farmers, a quiet, unassuming man, devotedly attached to his family and home. In religious convictions he heartily affiliated with the Methodist faith, and the society in this village received his loyal and earnest

support to the end of his life. In 1839 Mr. and Mrs. Eaton entertained at a New Year's dinner sixteen members of the Eaton family in this vicinity. The event afforded great pleasure, and it was then determined to make it an annual affair, to be held alternately among the relatives, which has been done to the present time without a miss. Mrs. Eaton is now the only surviving member of the original New Year's dinner. When the event falls due at Corn Hill farm the table linen, as well as much of the china and silver, are the same used at the first dinner.

The principal founders of the Eaton family who came to America previous to 1640 were: Francis, on the Mayflower, 1620; John, who went to Haverhill, Mass., and Jonas and William, who settled in Reading, Vt. They all came over between 1634 and 1640, and were the New England pioneers. The crest of one Eaton arms is the head of a lion, which is represented as swallowing a cask or tun, a rebus on Eaton (eatun). The more usual crest is an eagle's head, sable; in the mouth a sprig, vert.

In 1888 Mr. and Mrs. Eaton celebrated their golden wedding. Children:

George Avery, died in infancy.

James W., enlisted in the 5th N. Y. Heavy Artillery during Civil war. Made a good record upon many a well-fought battlefield. Taken prisoner and died January 3, 1865, in prison hospital at Salisbury, N. C.

Mary Elizabeth, died in infancy.

Amanda C., married March 12, 1873, George B. Fletcher. Child: Sarah.

Emma, married Charles S. Brown, resides at Waverly, N. Y. Child: Robert.

Lizzie, resides at Corn Hill farm, with mother and sister, Mrs. Fletcher.

George P., married Emma Kinnear of Waitsburg, Wyo ;

resides at Granger, Wash. Children: Emma, Warren, Edith, Clara.

CHARLES B., married (1) Ida Sherwood, who died March 17, 1899; married (2) Anna Trimble. Residence Seattle, Wash. Children: James, Alice, Ruth, Phillip, Dorothy.

The love of country is more powerful than reason itself.
—OVID.

Independence Day, 1859

The celebration of Independence Day in 1859 was long held in pleasant memory. The day was cool and delightful. At an early hour the streets were thronged by citizens of Oxford and adjoining towns, making the attendance very great. James W. Glover, Esq., was marshal of the day. His assistants were General Samuel A. Gifford, Colonel Samuel M. Robinson, and Andrew J. Hunt. The Niagara and Lady Washington fire companies, led by the Oxford Band, met at the head of Washington avenue the Deluge and Rescue fire companies from Norwich, with the Sherburne Band, and conducted them to the rooms of the fire department, where ample refreshments were served. The Oxford Guards, under Captain Freeborn Youngs, and the Artillery Company, under Captain Edwin M. Osborn, received the Norwich Heavy Artillery, under Captain James Tyrrell, with mounted guns, and the Infantry from the same place, and escorted them to the village. The procession was formed in front of Hitchcock Hotel and moved to Washington square, where patriotism found full vent in a high order of merit. Rev. Mr. Matteson of the M. E.

church made the opening prayer, after which the Declaration of Independence was read by Cyrus N. Brown. The oration by John T. Mygatt followed, replete with happy thought and patriotism. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Potter of the Baptist church. The procession then reformed and marched to Hitchcock's for dinner. The white clouds which floated lightly upon the horizon above, like banners trailing their shadows, the insignia of the fire and military departments, and their banners, beneath, and the bright equipage and glittering armor, with the alternate martial and band music, afforded a beautiful pageant, which is seldom equaled in any village. The banquet at Hitchcock's was partaken of by a very large and gleeful assembly, and presided over by "Count" VanDerLyn, president of the day, who excelled himself in his large experience in similar positions. After the cloth was removed regular and volunteer toasts were drunk. In the afternoon there was target shooting, trial of fire engines, and a parade drill of Captain Tyrrell's Artillery company. At sunset a national salute of thirty-two guns was fired. The evening was brilliant with fireworks and a torchlight procession of the fire companies ended the celebration of Independence Day in 1859.

There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn.
—JOHNSON.

Clarke Family.

Ethan Clarke, son of Rev. Henry and Catherine (Pendleton) Clarke, was born at Hopkinton, R. I., March 30, 1798. At an early age with his father, who was one of a Rhode Island colony of Sabbatarians, he emigrated to

Brookfield, N. Y., remaining there but a few years, when he went to Plainfield, N. Y. In the spring of 1821 Mr. Clarke came to Oxford and purchased the Stage House, which he conducted for several years in connection with the stage lines running through this valley, an important enterprise at that day. Afterwards he engaged in mercantile business, the first year or two with Henry Balcom, later with Ebenezer Sherwood, and from 1840 with his brother-in-law, Captain Joseph H. Dwight, which continued till the death of the latter in 1845. In 1854 his sons, James W. and Francis G., with Frederick A. Sands, became his partners. At the expiration of a year Mr. Sands withdrew. Shortly after the opening of the Chenango canal the firm added storage and forwarding to their business, becoming extensive dealers in produce. The address, "Care E. Clarke, Oxford, N. Y.," was marked on innumerable boxes, bales, bundles, barrels, crates, and hogsheads, sent to every country store within a radius of forty miles of Oxford, and the name was a household word in every farmhouse in the same circle, where butter was made to be sent to New York city and a market, until the canal boat, like the stage coach became a thing of the past. The name "Clarke" was a synonym for energy, honor, and business integrity.

Mr. Clarke died Sunday, February 8, 1857. He had been in usual health and attended church in the morning. Owing to the sudden rise of the river on that day the guard bank to the canal feeder commenced giving away in the afternoon, making it necessary to remove a quantity of flour from the store cellar. Mr. Clarke assisted with his usual activity and energy. During the work of removal he was found in an insensible state and quickly removed to his residence, where death ensued. Mr. Clarke married (1) Lucy, daughter of Reuben and Hannah (Johnson) Wil-

cox; married (2) September 5, 1814, Rachel, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Cowell) Case, born December 28, 1792; died August 25, 1854, in Oxford. The widow, orphan, and stranger ever found in her a sympathizing friend, and the poor a constant benefactor.

Child by first wife:

Lucy Wilcox, born August 30, 1812, in Brookfield, N. Y.; died December 26, 1891, in Oxford.

Children by second wife:

James Willard, born July 20, 1815, in Brookfield; died June 30, 1878, in Oxford. He was an active business man, and held the office of postmaster for two years, from 1841. In 1864 he entered upon the work of establishing the First National Bank of Oxford, of which he became president. For many years he was closely identified with St. Paul's church, as vestryman and warden. The Academy also shared in the labors which he willingly bestowed upon it, and in matters of public and universal interest he devoted much time. Mr. Clarke married (1) March 31, 1846, in Oxford, Catherine Iliad, daughter of Obadiah and Elizabeth (Teed) Sands, born August 13, 1818, in Franklin, N. Y.; died March 21, 1850, in Oxford; married (2) Susan Eliza, daughter of John and Susan (Hyde) Tracy. Children by first wife: Frederick Sands, died in infancy. Winslow, born August 14, 1848; died June 3, 1869. Clement Sands, born March 15, 1850; died November 28, 1855.

Elizabeth Ann, born April 27, 1817, in Plainfield; died January 29, 1887, in Rochester; married November 9, 1847, in Oxford, Rev. John Visger VanIngen, born December 4, 1806, in Schenectady; died December 1, 1877, in Rochester; a former rector of Zion church, Greene. Children: Rachel Louisa, died in infancy. Richard Clarke, died in infancy. John Abraham, born October 21, 1851; married Mary, daughter of Albert and Frances Walker; residence Roches-

ter. Hannah Catherine, born July 1, 1853; died February 6, 1901, in Rochester; unmarried. Fanny DeLancy, died in infancy. Sarah Lucy, died in infancy. James William, born June 10, 1859, in St. Paul, Minn.; married Anna M., daughter of John and Jane Clark of Yonkers.

Dwight Henry, born March 2, 1819, in Plainfield; died April 17, 1874, in Oxford; unmarried. On completing his literary training in Oxford Academy and Union College he entered the law office of James Clapp, Esq., as a student. On finishing his legal studies he commenced the practice of his profession at Jackson, Mich., and after two years returned to Oxford, where he resided until his death. In 1850 he was chosen District Attorney of Chenango county, which office he held for three years; in 1854 was elected Supervisor on the Whig ticket; in 1855 elected County Judge, and in 1859 re-elected, holding the office for eight years. After his retirement from the bench he resumed the practice of law.

Ethan Case, born December 16, 1820, in Plainfield, N. Y.; died October 4, 1889, in Washington, D. C.; married April 11, 1850, in Rochester, N. Y., Elizabeth, daughter of Simeon and Phœbe (Brewer) Mickle of Oneonta, N. Y. Mr. Clarke was educated at Oxford Academy and became a civil engineer. He was employed on the enlargement of the Erie canal, the construction of the Illinois Central railroad, the military road between St. Paul, Minn., and Superior, Wis., and the survey of several other railroads. In the spring of 1869 he accepted a position in the Treasury Department at Washington.

Hannah Henry, born October 7, 1822, in Oxford; died August 13, 1880, in Clinton, N. Y.; married August 2, 1843, George, son of Luman and Fitche (Church) McNeil. Children: Rachel Elizabeth, married August 24, 1870, in Oxford, Cory D. Hayes; residence Clinton; (child, Grace,

married George Watrous). Catherine Hannah, born January 3, 1850, in Oxford; died September 2, 1889, in Clinton; married May 17, 1882, at Clinton, Nathan L. Hayes; (child, Robert).

Peter Welcome, born April 14, 1826, in Oxford; died here September 10, 1889; married December 31, 1867, Maria Clarissa, daughter of Dr. William G. and Sarah E. (Mygatt) Sands. Mr. Clarke was proprietor of the Chenango valley stage line, and later became one of the board of directors and cashier of the First National Bank of Oxford. Child: Sarah Sands, married Frederick L. McLaughlin, now resides in White Plains, N. Y.; (children, Elizabeth, Frederick, Samuel, Richard and Robert, twins).

John Ray, born April 9, 1828, in Oxford; died suddenly in Narragansett, R. I., August 19, 1890; married August 15, 1850, Elizabeth Wells, daughter of James A. and Ann (Bradley) Glover. Early in life Mr. Clarke entered upon a business career in his father's store. About 1854 he removed to Buffalo and joined a large jobbing house. Four years later he returned to Oxford and continued in business with his brothers until about 1869, when he was made treasurer of the Midland railroad. In 1876 he removed to Binghamton, engaging in the jobbing of hats, caps, furs, and robes. He was actively interested in all that pertained to the Episcopal church. On the organization of the Security Mutual Life Association he was chosen its president, and was also president of the Binghamton Board of Trade. Mrs. Clarke was liberal and benevolent in church and charity work, and it was largely due to her contribution that Trinity Memorial church, Binghamton, was built. Child: Anna Elizabeth, born in Buffalo; married September 13, 1882, in Binghamton, Charles Martin Stone; (children, Elizabeth Rebecca, Ray Clarke, died in infancy; Mary Clarke, Ruth Glover, died in infancy.

Francis Granger, born November 22, 1830, in Oxford; married (1) August 15, 1860, in Norwich, Clarissa Maria, daughter of Isaac and Clarissa (Randall) Bockee, born there August 10, 1837; died September 13, 1882, in Oxford; married (2) September 9, 1884, in Canandaigua, N. Y., Laura Bemis, daughter of Thaddeus and Rebecca (Bemis) Chapin. Children by first wife: Francis Bockee, born February 17, 1863; died September 18, 1863. Henry Bockee, born September 8, 1864; died December 23, 1889. Herbert William, married August 29, 1893, in Oxford, Margaret, daughter of Robert A. and Elizabeth (Pendleton) Stanton. James Winslow, rector of St. Andrew's church, Utica. Mr. Clarke early connected himself with the mercantile business conducted by his father, at whose death the firm became Clarke Bros. After the retirement of his brothers from the firm he continued the business for many years, when he became interested in the stone business. After years of laborious work the Oxford Blue Stone Company was, through his instrumentality, developed from a small flagging quarry into a large and remunerative business.

But in these nice sharp quillets of the law,
Good faith, I am no wiser than a daw.

—Shakespeare.

Price & Clapp.

William M. Price and James Clapp, two young lawyers of New York city, packed their law library in a wagon and drove into the interior of the State to seek their fortunes, preferring the country to the city for their field of labor.

They halted at several villages which seemed to offer an opening for the practice of law, but were not satisfied with the outlook, and journeyed on until early one summer evening in 1808 they entered the village of Oxford. The beauty of its position, the neatness of the place, and the substantial air of comfort which presented itself in every direction, determined them to take up their residence and end further prospecting. A small but neat building in the center of the village, owned by a milliner, was rented, their books, chairs, desks, and other belongings unloaded and arranged in order in the new office, and as the shades of night set in they nailed their sign on the window and were ready for any business that might come to them. Early the next morning, seated at the door of their new habitation, there approached a distinguished looking person, whom later they found to be General Hovey, the largest land owner in the town. He stopped, read the sign on the window, looked at the new-comers, and said:

"Whence came you, young gentlemen, for you were not here when I took my afternoon walk yesterday?"

"We came last evening, sir," replied Mr. Clapp, with a gracious bow of the head. "This is my partner, Mr. Price, and I am James Clapp. We started from New York several weeks ago in search of a thrifty town in which to locate. We looked over several, but this is the only one that pleased us, and we have unloaded and intend to stay."

"I like this enterprise," replied General Hovey, as he resumed his walk, "and you shall have my law business."

Thus were the young lawyers from the Metropolis introduced to the thriving hamlet, and of which one of them remained a resident during life.

William M. Price was a native of England. The first case that he had before a justice of the peace in this village he broke down, but rallied and became a very popular

and successful lawyer. He did not remain in town many years, but returned to New York city, where he became eminent as a criminal lawyer. Better it would have been for him if he had never left the village of his adoption. He was United States attorney for the southern district of New York under the administrations of President Jackson and VanBuren, until the defalcation of one Samuel Swartwout was discovered. Instead of proceeding against Swartwout according to instructions, he fled to Europe, leaving a resignation behind, and was found to be a defaulter himself. He remained abroad until the storm of public and political indignation had somewhat abated, then again returned to New York, and claimed that a large sum was due him from the government, but recovered nothing. He appeared before the court with much of his former success and endeavored to regain his former standing, but without effect. Finally he became pecuniarily embarrassed with a prospect of coming to poverty and want. His property was advertised to be sold at sheriff's sale, and had been several times postponed at his request in the hopes that he might by some means get relief, but he was at last informed that the sale must take place, and to advoid the disaster and mortification he put an end to his existence by shooting himself August 11, 1846. His age was 59 years.

James Clapp was born at Hartford, Conn., December 5, 1785. He was a large, firm-looking man, a brilliant lawyer, and fond of the rod and gun; for in those days sporting men were gratified to the extent desired, for all kinds of game were plenty. Mr. Clapp was a student of Aaron Burr's in 1804, at the time of the Burr-Hamilton duel. He came here with a character peculiarly adapted to those early times. He ever declined public honors and office, and few men in private life were more extensively known. Rare conversational powers united with a wide range and

versatility of knowledge, rendered him ever attractive and entertaining in the social circle. He married Julia Hyde, daughter of Benjamin Butler, who died November 17, 1832, aged 38. Mr. Clapp was found dead January 8, 1854. He, while in a state of unsound mind, like his partner of early days, had put an end to his existence. Children:

MARY B., born October 20, 1816, in Oxford; died January 5, 1845, in Oxford; unmarried.

JULIA B., born May 12, 1818, in Oxford; died December 9, 1885, while residing in Paris, France; married November 22, 1842, Walter L. Newberry of Chicago. She was an active member of the Episcopal church, and a memorial window to her memory is in the American church in Paris. She was known and respected for her liberality and benevolence, as well as for her talents and social acquirements. She left a fortune of over $3,000,000. Mr. Newberry died November 6, 1868, at sea en route for Havre to join his family, then in Paris. Naturally austere and taciturn, he repelled all offers of friendship or acquaintance on shipboard, and thus among strangers he sickened and died. He escaped the usual burial of those dying at sea by the interference of a gentleman from Unadilla, N. Y., who knew him and who assured the captain of the vessel that the relatives of the deceased would meet any expense accrued in keeping the body. A cask of Medford rum that formed a part of the cargo, it is stated, was brought into requisition. Mr. Newberry's body was placed within it, and when the cargo was discharged the cask was rebilled to Mr. Newberry's friends in Chicago by the Unadilla gentleman, who was ignorant of the fact that Mrs. Newberry was then in Paris. The cask left for America on the next steamer and in due time arrived at Chicago on a freight train. The friends who had been notified of the shipment of the body, it is

further stated, took charge of the cask, still containing the body, and buried it in Graceland cemetery.

Mr. Newberry received an academic education, was appointed to the West Point United States Military Academy by President Andrew Jackson, but because of ill health, abandoned that career and at sixteen years of age joined his brother, Oliver F., in the dry goods trade in Detroit in 1826. He was successful, and in 1833 joined a syndicate of five, Lewis Cass and William B. Astor being among the number, in a tour of inspection and for investment in the West. They bought land in Green Bay, Milwaukee, Calumet, and Chicago; at the latter place he settled in 1833, making investments there in real estate, which became the nucleus of a fortune which was variously estimated at the time of his death at from four to ten million of dollars. He figured largely in the city's early history in connection with the establishment of banks, insurance companies, schools, and public improvements generally, and especially as a promoter of railroads. He was a projector and for a time the president of the old Galena and Chicago railroad, the first line of the present great Northwestern system, and lived to see Chicago the greatest railroad center of the world. He was a member of the banking house of Newberry & Burch, twice president of the Chicago School Board, a founder and twice president of the Chicago Historical Society, and by his will he endowed a public library, which bears his name, with one-half of his estate. This endowment now, in real estate and securities, is valued at $5,000,000, and is increasing rapidly in value.

Children, all born in Chicago: Walter, 1st, died young; Walter, 2d, died young; Mary Louise, born August 12, 1845; died February 18, 1874; Julia Rose, born December 28, 1853; died April 4, 1876.

BENJAMIN B., born April 20, 1821, in Oxford; died November 16, 1882, in Utica; married June 1, 1854, Mary Anne Skinner of Albany, and lived at Luzerne, N. Y. By an act of the Legislature, his name was changed from Benjamin Butler Clapp to Benjamin Clapp Butler, to conform to a provision in his maternal grandfather's will. Two days after Fort Sumter was fired upon in 1861 he offered his services to the country, raised the 93d N. Y. S. V., of which he was colonel, and led with courage and ability during four years of meritorious service. The village of Luzerne owes its favorable reputation to his enterprise and public spirit, and St. Mary's church in that village is mainly the work of his hand. Twice he represented Warren county in the Legislature.

JAMES, born August 6, 1823, in Oxford; died February 17, 1893, in Cairo, Egypt. Practiced law in Oxford and afterwards in Chicago. Later became a resident of Luzerne, N. Y. Buried in Oxford.

NICHOLAS D., born November 27, 1827, in Oxford; died February 23, 1889, in New York city; married (1) in 1855 Mary T. McMahon of Unadilla, N. Y., born in 1832; died in 1866, in Chicago, Ill.; married (2) Adele B. Wolfe of New York city. Children by first wife: Minnie, married D. S. Dickinson Mygatt of New York city. Infant daughter. James. Children by second wife: Infant daughter. Edith Devereux, married December 6, 1904, in New York city, Count Rene du Temple de Rougemont of Paris.

The old familiar faces—
How some they have died, and some they have left me,
And some are taken from me; all are departed;
All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.
—LAMB.

Gerardus VanDerLyn.

Gerardus VanDerLyn, accompanied by his mother, came from Kingston, N. Y., in 1812, to live with his brother Henry. Mr. VanDerLyn married June 1, 1822, Mrs. Jane VanGaasbeck of Kingston, N. Y., a daughter of Rev. Peter Lowe of Flatbush, L. I., who died October 12, 1862, in the 72d year of her age. He lived a quiet, unassuming life, and was a thoughtful observer of passing events, taking a deep interest in all the questions of his time. He died November 9, 1875, aged 88. Children:

MARY, died March 28, 1857; unmarried.

HENRY, studied law with his Uncle Henry and practiced in Oxford; died May 5, 1869, aged 44; married Ursula Seymour, whose death occurred October 24, 1902.

PETER G., died November 17, 1854, in Elmira, aged 27; unmarried. Located there in 1849 and had an extensive law practice.

WARD, born July 23, 1829; died May 5, 1906; married March 11, 1858, Helen E. Palmer, born June 16, 1838, in Oriskany Falls, N. Y.; died March 27, 1901, in Oxford. Mr. VanDerLyn for a period of twenty years was in the dry goods business with Frederick P. Newkirk, and on the dissolution of the firm in 1873 they purchased the Westover farm and conducted it jointly three years. He then in partnership with Frederick H. Burchard was for ten years in the hardware business. He closed his mercantile

career in the Fort Hill block where for nearly five years in connection with his son Frederick, he carried on an extensive clothing business. After that he lived a retired life, cultivating a few acres of land upon his property in the village. Mr. VanDerLyn was for a number of years a trustee of Oxford Academy. He also served several terms on the board of village trustees, and as president of the Oxford Fair Association. Mr. VanDerLyn was of a quiet and unassuming disposition, and in his business dealings, honorable and upright. All of his life had been spent upon the same premises in this village. A singular coincidence in his death was that it occurred on the anniversary of his brother Henry's, which was in 1869, and also that of Hon. Wm. H. Hyde in 1902, all having lived in the house now occupied by Mrs. Wm. H. Hyde adjoining and formerly a part of the VanDerLyn property. Children: Mary, married January 6, 1891, Albert S. Burchard; Frederick, died February 13, 1891, aged 27. Unmarried.

He was the friend not of fortune, but of men.

—Nepos.

Andrew J. Hull.

Andrew J. Hull, born December 4, 1824, in Eaton, N. Y.; died September 20, 1891.

Mr. Hull came to Oxford from Angelica, N. Y., about the year 1838, and attended Oxford Academy until he entered Union College, where he graduated in 1845. He then read law in the office of Henry R. Mygatt and was admitted to the bar in 1847, and the same year was united in marriage with Frances B. Perkins, daughter of Erastus and Agnes

(Van Wagenen) Perkins. Sometime after he removed to Georgia and engaged in business in that State for a number of years. After the close of the Civil war he became interested in a woolen mill in this village, which was conducted but a short time and at a loss. In 1870 he received the appointment of Harbor Master of New York city from Gov. Hoffman, his classmate in college, as also were Bishop Littlejohn and Judge Earl. Children:

Agnes Perkins, married September 6, 1876, William R. Mygatt and resides in Chicago.

Katherine M., unmarried, resides in San Francisco.

Gerrit Henry, born June 11, 1858, in Walthourville, Ga.; died August 10, 1881, in Denver, Col.

Loathing pretence, he did with cheerful will
What others talked of, while their hands were still.
—Whittier.

Isaac Leonard.

Isaac Leonard, born April 18, 1786, at Hoosic, N. Y.; died March 23, 1877, in Oxford; married June 3, 1814, in Oxford, Naomi Seeley, born February 20, 1795, in Stratford, Conn.; died September 8, 1888, in Oxford.

Mr. Leonard was of hardy Welsh stock and served a short term in the war of 1812 as a common soldier without any chance for distinction, and unlike most of his comrades drew no pension, satisfied with the pay of his time of service. After the war he drifted into Chenango county, then still a wilderness inhabited by wild beasts and Indians, and took up on contract a parcel of land located on the hilly confines of the towns of Oxford and Coventry, built

himself a log cabin and cleared several acres on it for cultivation. Feeling the need of a helpmate, he courted a comely lass of the neighborhood, Naomi Seeley, and though ten years her senior, won her consent to marry him. By steady industry and economy they succeeded to a farm of 109 acres, though, by a fault of title, not until they had paid for it twice over. Children:

MARY, married Dr. C. Bruchhausen, died August 15, 1883, in Norwich. MATILDA, married Hector Beecher, died March 21, 1904. ABRAHAM, born November 28, 1816; died May —, 1837. ALFRED, born October 21, 1821; died June 17, 1887. JAMES G., born August 11, 1827; still living. CHARLES J., born November 26, 1829; died November 26, 1864. NELSON, born August 1, 1831; deceased. HULDAH, born May 9, 1834; died January 3, 1856; married Edward Porter. SARAH E., born August 20, 1841; died November 5, 1881; married William Leach. RILEY K., twin to Sarah E., died in 1895.

Ambition has but one reward for all;
A little power, a little transient fame,
A grave to rest in, and a fading name.

—WINTER.

Samuel Guernsey.

Samuel Guernsey, born November 10, 1776; died April 9, 1836, in Oxford; married about 1800, Sarah Bulkley, born July 13, 1775, in Saybrook, Conn.; died September 13, 1850, in Greene.

Mr. Guernsey came from Dutchess county in 1797 while a young man, bought land, worked on it summers, went back and taught school winters. This he did for some five

years or more, when he married and settled down to farming as his life work. He was a son of Dr. Guernsey, and a brother, Peter, located in Norwich. Mr. Guernsey brought to his work skill, intelligence, unbounded perseverance, and left nothing unaccomplished that lay within his reach. He was a great help to the new settlers, though some thought him severe and exacting. He began to be a well-to-do farmer when the hills were almost an unbroken wilderness; hence he employed the surplus labor of the hills. This was when a man could be hired for nine dollars a month through the long summer days. Fifty cents and board was all that the laborer could command for twelve hours work. A man of integrity and honor, Mr. Guernsey enjoyed the confidence of a large circle of friends. A man of strict morality and virtue, he commanded and enjoyed the respect of all. The Guernsey farm is now the home of the Farrell Brothers. In early days it was the resort of traveling Methodist ministers, and it was also where the pioneers of the town made their applejack. Children:

JULIA, married Allen Wright of Rome, N. Y., and died there in 1883.

JOHN M., of whom further mention is made.

AMANDA, married (1) —— Nichols of Greene; married (2) Dr. Rice of Rome, Penn., and died there about 1890.

MARIA, married Charles Stevens of Greene, and died there in 1884.

SARAH A., married Henry D. Mercur of Towanda, Penn., and died February 19, 1874.

John M. Guernsey, born in 1804 in Oxford; died October 2, 1862, in Oxford; married (1) in 1843, Lucena E. Smith, born June 23, 1818; died in June, 1851, in South Oxford; married (2) about 1855, Melinda Hollenbeck Wheeler. Mr. Guernsey received a professional education as a doc-

tor, but did not practice any length of time and returned to the farm where he spent the remainder of his life. Children by first wife:

Susan M., was severely burned by her clothes taking fire June 11, 1861, and died four days later. Miss Guernsey was scalding milk pans in the yard near a fire, when by some means the flames were communicated to her dress. She ran towards the house, her screams attracting the attention of her father, who endeavored to relieve her from the frightful position in which she was placed, but his efforts were unavailing. Mr. Guernsey received severe burns upon his hands.

William J., married May 25, 1881, Harriet Anderson of Rome, N. Y. Superintendent of mails at Albany, N. Y.

Esther, married October 8, 1873, David Finn Smith of Greene. Child by second wife:

Rachel, married Nelson Wessels of Greene, and died in 1877.

He was wont to speak plain and to the purpose. like an honest man and a soldier.

—Shakespeare.

Hunt Family.

Luther Hunt, an early resident of Oxford, was born November 9, 1761; place of birth now unknown; died November 29, 1830, in Oxford. Mr. Hunt was appointed ensign of a company in a battalion of militia March 10, 1792, and commissioned lieutenant October 5, 1793. Following is a copy of his commission as ensign:

The People of the State of New York,
By the Grace of God, Free and Independent.
To Luther Hunt, Gentleman, Greeting:

We, reposing especial trust and confidence, as well in your patriotism, conduct and loyalty, as in your valour and readiness to do us good and faithful service, Have appointed and constituted, and by these presents, Do appoint and constitute you the said Luther Hunt, Ensign of a Company in the Battallion of Militia in the County of Tioga whereof Benjamin Hovey, Esquire, is Major Commandant. You are, therefore, to take the said Company into your charge and care as Ensign thereof and duly to exercise the Officers and Soldiers of that Company in arms, who are hereby commanded to obey you as the Ensign, and you are also to observe and follow such orders and directions, as you shall from time to time receive from our General and Commander in Chief of the Militia of our said State, or any other your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in pursuance of the trust reposed in you; and for so doing, this shall be your commission, for and during our good pleasure, to be signified by our Council of Appointment: In Testimony whereof, we have caused our seal for military commissions to be hereunto affixed. Witness our truly and well-beloved George Clinton, Esquire, Governor of the State of New-York, General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the same, by and with the advice and consent of our said Council of Appointment, at our City of New York, the third day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, and in the Sixteenth year of our Independence.

Passed the Secretary's Office, 10th March, 1792.

ROBT. HARPUR, D. Secretary.

GEO. CLINTON.

Mr. Hunt's son, Charles A., is by some authorities claimed to have been the first white child born in Oxford. Rebecca, his wife, was born in 1760, and died April 3, 1823, in Oxford. Children: Williard, born June 29, 1797; died November 25, 1826; Samuel died in infancy; Betsey, born May 15, 1791, died July 20, 1828; Charles A., born September 2, 1793; Thomas, born August 31, 1795, moved to Rochester when a young man; Samuel F., born May 26, 1799, died January 29, 1829, in Steuben county; Clarissa, born April 17, 1801, died August 12, 1831; married December 3, 1820, David St. John.

Charles A. Hunt married Lucy Preston. He occupied many important public stations with honor to himself and to those who placed him there. In 1849 he moved with his family to Preston, where in May of that year while in a fit of despondency he committed suicide. His age was 56

years. Lucy, his wife, died December 3, 1850, aged 52.

Children:

JULIAN, born August 15, 1818; died June 5, 1886, in Binghamton; married Freevon S. Young, who was one of the first to enlist in the 114th Regt. during Civil war. Died from wound August 25, 1863.

JANE ELIZA, born July 10, 1820; died March 23, 1895, in Oxford. Unmarried.

CHARLES LUTHER, born January 18, 1822; died November 28, 1875, in Oxford; married Mary Root, died November 23, 1893.

REBECCA, born January 28, 1824; died April 28, 1889, in Norwich; married Loren D. Bacon of Norwich.

JAMES HENRY, born February 26, 1826; died February 5, 1897, in Norwich; married Frances Thompson.

CHANDLER P., born August 10, 1827; died October 12, 1903, in Oxford; married Katherine Carpenter, who died November 15, 1890, aged 54.

MARY ADELIA, born November 7, 1830; died July —, 1902; married Joseph L. Smith, died March 19, 1901.

ANDREW J., born November 29, 1834; married May 6, 1858, Mary P. Ransford, died January 20, 1902; resides in Norwich and only survivor of the family.

CLARISSA ELIZABETH, born October 14, 1835; died December 26, 1836.

CLARISSA ELIZABETH, 2d, born March 10, 1838; died November 28, 1843.

WILLARD RUSSELL, born April 30, 1842; died September 11, 1887. Unmarried.

War, he sung, is toil and trouble,
Honour but an empty bubble.
—DRYDEN.

Salmon W. Owen.

Salmon W. Owen, who traced his lineage to ancestors in Wales, was born in 1795, and for a long term of years a resident of Panther Hill in this town, where he died June 6, 1883. His wife was Sally Sherwood, born in 1800, and died December 4, 1879, in Oxford. Mr. Owen was a pilot on the Susquehanna and Chenango rivers in the early days when rafting was carried on extensively. He was among the sturdy men who took part in the war of 1812, by reason of which he afterward received a pension, and was the last pensioner of that war in this town. Children:

MARCUS S., born April 25, 1820, in Oxford; died September 18, 1896, at Benton Harbor, Mich. Married (1) Augusta I. Beckwith of Coventry, N. Y., who died May 1, 1856, aged 32. Married (2) Adelaide Pope of New Berlin, N. Y. Mr. Owen at the age of twenty years began the study of music and became a skillful violinist. He taught vocal and instrumental music for a number of years.

MARTHA MELISSA, married Charles Henry Beckwith. Children: Franklin H., married Nannie Kerfoot of Chicago; Charles L., married Alice Denike of Poughkeepsie; James Carroll, an artist in New York, married June 1, 1887, Bertha Hall of New York.

JANE E., married Smith Steere of Norwich. The only survivor of the family and resides in Benton Harbor, Mich.

DELOS, died June 25, 1857, aged 24.

HELEN M., died July 10, 1877, aged 44.

FREDERIC O., died April 5, 1873, in Cleveland, O., aged 37.

Mine be a cot beside the hill;
A bee hive's hum shall soothe my ear;
A willowly brook, that turns a mill,
With many a fall, shall linger near.

—ROGERS.

Stratton Family.

The first Stratton of whom any record has been found in America, came from England in 1628. By 1660 there were seven Strattons settled on this side of the Atlantic; one at James City, Va.; two on Long Island and four in New England. Probably most of the Strattons in the United States may be traced back to one of these seven branches and these are shown to be connected by a search of English records.

Of the Stratton family residing in the town of Oxford, John Stratton was the first, and from him are descended most of the present residents of that name. He was born in New Ipswich, N. H., March 28, 1775, and was one of a family of twelve children, seven girls and five boys. His father was Daniel Stratton, a descendant of Samuel born in England in 1592 and died in Watertown, Mass., in 1672. Daniel Stratton had two brothers, Hezekiah and Nehemiah, the latter was one of Washington's Life Guards, and a record of him is to be found in a book published in 1905, "The Commander-in-Chief's Guard."

John Stratton, when a youth, was apprenticed to a Dyer and Clothier, but never followed his trade, being of a mechanical turn of mind, and became a millwright, which occupation he followed for years. He came to Oxford some time prior to 1809 and made a business of buying and selling land. After a short time he removed to Binghamton, but returned to South Oxford previous to 1815, where

he remained until his death, which occurred January 28, 1842. His wife was Charlotte Frink, who was born April 22, 1788, in Connecticut, and died March 27, 1875, in Oxford. Children:

Albert G., born November 17, 1809, in Binghamton; died July 15, 1890, in Oxford; married November 12, 1835, Caroline Willcox, of Oxford, born February 11, 1815. Children: Adelaide C., married (1) Isaac L. Bronson of Amsterdam, N. Y.; married (2) E. D. Bronson of Amsterdam. John Hovey, born August 26, 1838; died April 13, 1841. Mary C., born June 29, 1840; died April 8, 1841. Mary L., born April 14, 1842; died July 3, 1858. Charles J., married Mary Kinney of Oxford. Sarah DeF., married Henry M. Juliand of Greene. Tracy, born July 19, 1848; died February 16, 1850. Rosella H., married Rector W. Willoughby of Oxford. Melville B., now owns and occupies the farm where his father and grandfather lived and died. Married October 24, 1877, Harriet McFarland of Oxford. (Child: Julian Arthur, born May 15, 1882. Inheriting from his ancestors a love for mechanics he graduated from Cornell University in 1904 with the degree of M. E. E. E., and is now with the Western Electric Co. of Chicago.)

John, born March 2, 1812, in Binghamton; died January 2, 1886, in Oxford; married January 5, 1844, Hannah Willcox of Oxford; died January 6, 1904, in Greene, aged 82. Children: Eli B., married Anice Race of Greene and resides there. Ellen L., married Dr. C. C. Miller of Detroit, Mich. Latson W., married Ella McNell of Amsterdam and resides in Chicago. Emma C., married Chester B. Willoughby of Oxford and resides in Sidney. Gilbert J., married Jennie Hodge of Oxford, who died March 29, 1906. Clark L., married Bertha Berry of South Oxford.

Ira, born January 29, 1815, in Oxford; died September

22, 1883; married May 6, 1838, Eliza Dent. Children: James, John, Wesley, Alice, Mary.

William Frink, born January 27, 1817, in Oxford; died October 31, 1847, in Oxford; married January 1, 1840, Maria Symonds of Oxford, born January 11, 1820; died July 30, 1890, in Norwich. Children: Whitman, born September 7, 1840; married April 30, 1867, Margaret Sheffer. Resides in Norwich. Charlotte, born January 28, 1842, resides in Norwich. Unmarried. Avery, born March 31, 1844; died September 3, 1865; married August 27, 1864, in Wisconsin, Louise Wood. Gerritt Smith, born August 24, 1846; died March 18, 1848.

Charlotte A., born February 26, 1819, in Oxford; married January 1, 1838, D. W. TenBroeck. Resides with her brother George. Children: Eli, married Anna Wheelock and resides in Colorado. Frank, unmarried. Alice, married ——— Landon.

Mary, born May 26, 1821, in Oxford; died March 21, 1873, in Oxford; married October 22, 1839, Clark Lewis.

George, born September 26, 1823, in Oxford; married (1) January 8, 1845, Mariette Robinson; married (2) October 9, 1866, Maria Robinson. Children by first wife: William Avery, unmarried. Edward L., married Mary Mason. Harvey J., married Fanny Copeland. Luke C., died February 2, 1863, in childhood. Tracy. Alice, married Ira B. McFarland.

Ebenezer Ross, born December 4, 1825, in Oxford; died August 26, 1889; married October 28, 1846, Hannah Symonds. Children: Harriet, died April 22, 1906; married C. O. Willcox of Oxford. Clara, married A. H. Wheeler of Mt. Upton. Curtis B. Albert C., married Lillian M. Tiffany of Norwich; died July 1, 1889 in Robinsonville, Miss. George F., married Addie Eaton of Ox-

ford, now residing in Buffalo. Luverne B., married Cora Church of Oxford.

Sarah Ann, born September 26, 1828, in Oxford; died December 24, 1859. Unmarried.

Caroline, born October 29, 1831, in Oxford; died May 6, 1832.

Good actions crown themselves with lasting bays.
—Heath.

Samuel Wheeler.

Samuel Wheeler, one of the earliest residents of this village, by his unstinted benevolence, unremitted industry, and the counsel of a clear and reliable judgment contributed greatly to its prosperity. The duties of various offices were discharged with ready ability, fidelity, and universal satisfaction. For twenty-five years he was a consistent member of the Congregational church. Mr. Wheeler died March 20, 1847, aged 58 years. Nancy Bennett, his wife, died in Oswego, N. Y., December 27, 1860, aged 71 years.

Children:

John B., born August 26, 1815, in Oxford; died December 2, 1885; married November 11, 1840, Caroline M. DeShon in McDonough; born October 26, 1820, in Preston; died December 9, 1885, in Oxford. Mr. Wheeler was a blacksmith by trade, a well read man, and devoted much of his time to military affairs. At one time he held high rank and became a distinguished officer, having commanded the 43d Regiment for several years, and on April 29, 1863, was appointed Brigadier General of the 12th Brigade. Chil-

dren: Robert A., born March 10, 1844; died March 26, 1860. Henry DeShon, born August 29, 1846; died October 29, 1848. Alice E., married December 1, 1874, J. H. Kennedy, of Des Moines, Iowa; living at 3200 University Ave., that city. Alida A., unmarried, living with her sister in Des Moines. John Lewis, with West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn. Children of J. H. and Alice (Wheeler) Kennedy: Grace DeShon, married J. D. Stanley, resides in Denver, Col. Alice Wheeler, married H. E. Moss, resides in Hastings, Neb. Caroline Parmelee, unmarried; resides in Des Moines.

James A., died January 2, 1843, in Columbus, Ill., aged 26, where he was teaching school.

William Henry, born in 1817. Children: William, James, Louise, died October 30, 1884, in Oswego, N. Y.

Darius, one daughter. Died in Sag Harbor, N. Y.

Catherine B., born June 2, 1824 in Oxford; died January 19, 1905, in Casselton, North Dakota; married Waldo M. Potter. Children: Franklin, Carrie, Grace, Kittie.

Angeline, died July 6, 1836, aged 17, from the result of a carriage accident. On the 4th of July, 1836, Miss Wheeler with a party of young people spent the day at Greene. On their return towards evening and near the inn six miles below this village, then kept by Col. Morgan, a carriage tongue was drawn out, frightening the horses and throwing out the driver and the young lady who was on the seat with him, neither receiving injuries. The tongue was replaced and the party proceeded onward. The young lady's dress was soiled with mud, and Miss Wheeler, who was riding inside, exchanged seats with her. They had gone but a few rods when the tongue again fell, the horses became unmanageable and ran, striking a wagon and turning over the carriage, throwing out the entire

party of three ladies and the young man who was driving, none of whom except Miss Wheeler received serious injuries. The party returned to the inn and a physician was quickly summoned, but her injuries were so great as to defy surgical aid and she died on the second day following the accident.

Happy the man who tills the field,
Content with rustic labor;
Earth does to him her fulness yield,
Hap what may to his neighbor.

—R. H. Stoddard.

Ezekiel Olds.

Ezekiel and Martha (Hackett) Olds came to Oxford in 1798 from Berkshire, Mass., traveling with an ox team. He was one of those men of other days, whose lot it was to take a part with Chenango's bold pioneers, when upon all her hills and throughout all her valleys stood the dark and gloomy forest, and where the wolf's long howl was heard echoing to the sound of the woodman's axe. Mr. Olds was truly one of those men whose strong arm has helped to clear away the gigantic trees from our forests, instead of which we now behold green fields stretched far and wide. He died May 31, 1849, aged 84. Mrs. Olds died January 25, 1876, aged 95. Children:

Olive, married Elijah B. Prentice, died in 1884, aged 89. Children: Philo, met death by drowning; Charles, Chauncey, Elizabeth, Susan A. J., John and Martha, all married except last two.

ESTHER, married Alexander Wilson. Child: Mary L., married Levi Bartle. (Children: Maryette, married Ransom Palmer, resides in Sidney; George, married Sarah Pettis, accidentally killed while hunting in Brisbin, February 19, 1876; Charles A., died November 18, 1875, in Albany, unmarried.

ABEL, died October 13, 1894, aged 92; married Thurza M. Gartsee, who died February 19, 1885, aged 72 years. Children: Andrew B., died suddenly May 1, 1904; married October 28, 1856, Caroline M. Holmes of Oxford; died August 9, 1900. He was the last of the family. For many years devoted his time and attention to music, and as a violin player led and conducted an orchestra, which was in great demand for public and private parties. Frederick E., died suddenly, January 24, 1900, aged 55.

ABIGAIL, married Nelson Wright. Children: Mary E., married Edward A. Nickerson; Martha, married (1) Lewis Foote; married (2) James Brooks, died in Oxford.

CAROLINE E., born February 24, 1811; died May 9, 1905; married Levines B. Jackson. Children: Sarah I., married Willis Wheeler, had one son; Charles H., who died July 4, 1874, aged 16; Mary A., married James P. Seaman, died in 1898; (children: Carrie, Mary, Arthur and Naomi.) Susan C., married (1) Nathan Wheeler; married (2) Byron Phelps. Martha A., married Clark K. Holmes. (Children: Etta M., married Eugene Wells; Minnie E.) Esther M., died 1868, aged 12.

CHARLES, married Jane E. Hackett, died in 1851.

ERASTUS, married Laura A. Burlison. Children: Ward L., died in 1884, unmarried; Jessie D., married George Franklin, died in 1896.

An honest man's the noblest work of God.

—Pope.

Samuel S. Stafford.

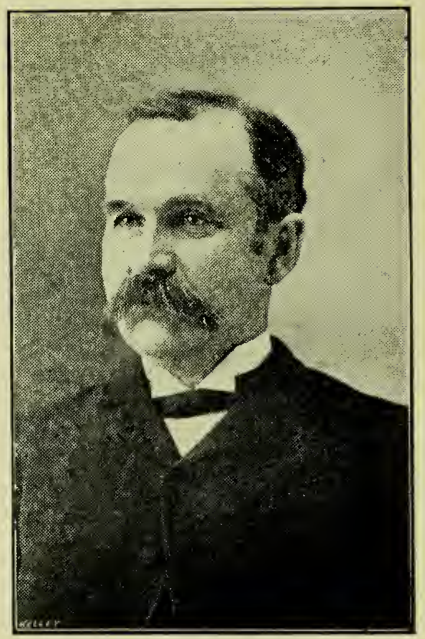
Samuel S. Stafford passed away May 4, 1904, after an illness of ten days. The direct cause of his death was from a wound received in the service of his country during the Civil war. At the age of twenty years Mr. Stafford entered Oxford Academy to prepare for a college education, in the meantime teaching four terms of district school. At the call of President Lincoln, July 2, 1862, for three hundred thousand men, the 114th Regiment of volunteers was formed. Major O. H. Curtis, then a young lawyer in Oxford, enlisted Company A, which Mr. Stafford joined July 23, 1862, and assisted in recruiting. Volunteering his services in defense of his country caused the abandonment of his cherished plans for a collegiate education. Upon recommendation he was commissioned a First Lieutenant, with rank from August 6, 1862, and was presented with a handsome sword, sash and belt by the officers and men of Co. A. He served with his regiment until March 11, 1863, when he was detailed a member of a General Court Martial sitting at Brashear City, Louisiana. The court was in session one month, after which Lieutenant Stafford joined his regiment, and participated in the battle of Fort Bisland, the skirmish at Franklin and the siege of Port Hudson. It was at Port Hudson, July 11, 1863, while bravely leading his men on the assault of the enemy's breast works that he received the wound that eventually caused his death. He was sent home to recuperate, and for ten months was confined to his bed, and



HUBERT C. STRATTON



VERNON D. STRATTON



SAMUEL S. STAFFORD

July 8, 1864, was honorably discharged from the service on "account of wound received in action."

While recovering from his wound Mr. Stafford was tendered the nomination for Member of Assembly by the Republican party, an office he had not sought and was ignorant of the fact that he was to be thus honored. He accepted the nomination, was elected and went to Albany on crutches, serving in the Legislature of 1865. On his return from the Assembly he studied law with Solomon Bundy, was admitted to practice and elected to the office of School Commissioner for the second district of the county, and later appointed one of its Loan Commissioners, an office he held for several terms. He was Supervisor of the town for three years, 1886 to 1888, and for many years corporation attorney for the village. To all elective offices he received nearly the unanimous vote of his party and many votes from the opposing party, so well was the trust in his integrity and honor established. Conscientious and painstaking in the discharge of one public duty he was so in the many entrusted to him, and has left a clean and bright record. As a lawyer his office work was perfect, and as a counsellor he was a model, for no opinions were given without mature deliberation and in belief that they were for the best interest of the client, though they might be contrary to his expectations.

Mr. Stafford was a Past Master of Oxford Lodge, No. 175, F. & A. M.; had served one term as District Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic district; was Past Commander of Breed Post, No. 196, G. A. R., and secretary of the 114th Regimental Association. To these organizations he was devoted and gave much attention and counsel. With Major Curtis he did much to keep up the regimental reunions and perpetuate the regiment's glorious achievements. He was a communicant of St. Paul's church, and

at his death a member of the Vestry. Mr. Stafford was the eldest son of Job and Wealthy Stafford, and was born June 8, 1837, in Preston, N. Y. He married December 12, 1866, Mary A. Gilbert of Oxford.

Aaron B. Main.

Aaron B. Main, born November 9, 1804, in North Stonington, Conn.; died December 22, 1875, in Oxford. Married November 19, 1829, Adelina Maine; born May 7, 1809; died February 8, 1890, in Oxford. Children: Susan Maria, born September 9, 1830; died December 7, 1896, at Greene. Married October 28, 1851, Thomas Miller, who while fishing in a brook had a paralytic shock and drowned, August 19, 1898. Frances Adelia, born August 11, 1832; died February 19, 1864; married November 6, 1853, Daniel Walker. Hannah Mary, born August 24, 1834; died January 12, 1904; married February 14, 1854, Willard Walker. Stephen Henry, born July 24, 1836; died June 17, 1856. Lucina, born June 10, 1840; died January 10, 1899; married September 23, 1868, James D. Smith. Catherine Eloisa, born August 10, 1845; died January 4, 1894; married June 8, 1869, John W. Cudworth.

Levi Sherwood lived on a farm at the head of Albany street, afterwards known as the Ingersoll place, and now a portion of Riverview cemetery. He followed the occupation of tanner and currier. At his death he was buried under a tree on his farm, the Masonic fraternity conducting the services. His daughter Betsey married Archibald Nichols, and Levi, a son, married Sarah Nichols.

With thee goes
Thy husband; him to follow thou art bound;
Where he abides, think there thy native soil.

—Milton.

John Padgett.

John Padgett and family, English by birth, came to Oxford at a very early day in the town's history. Mr. Padgett's marriage in England was not pleasing to his wife's parents, they considering their daughter above him in rank, therefore the Padgetts emigrated to America. On their arrival in Oxford they settled near Walker's Corners in the east part of the town. Among their children, all born in Oxford, were:

John, 2d, born in 1768 in England, and died in 1834 in Oxford. He married Anna Preston of Oxford, whose death occurred in 1823. Children: Erastus, John 3d, Elizabeth, Hannah, William, Lorenzo, Henry, Lewis, born August 15, 1816; died July —, 1905; married Clarissa Manwarren; Maria and Sophia, twins; Mary, Harvey.

James, died November 24, 1848, aged 77.

William, died in the autumn of 1800 from injuries received in a bear trap. Near where the Padgetts settled is a brook which bears their name. Beartrap falls came by its name in connection with the death of William Padgett. A deadfall or primitive bear trap had been constructed in the form of a figure 4, with a heavy piece of timber made sharp on one side to fall upon and hold a bear or other large animal when caught under it. Early one morning William went alone to examine the trap, was caught and held by the sharp log for several hours before anyone came

to his aid. When released he called for water, which was brought to him in a hat, drank it and immediately expired.

HANNAH, married ——— Shapley.

MATTIE, married Garner Shapley.

JANE, married James Walker.

To be honest as this world goes, is to be one man picked out of ten thousand.

—SHAKESPEARE.

Ebenezer Root.

Ebenezer Root, a miller, came from Great Barrington, Mass., previous to 1800 and settled in the eastern part of the town, where he lived until 1820, when he moved to Fayette (Guilford village) and took charge of the grist mill for a number of years. He was also a drover and cattle dealer. He returned to this town and run the Van-Wagenen mill on Lyon brook, near the present O. & W. R'y bridge, and in 1839 took the mill of Edward Arnold a half mile below North Guilford, where he died February 12, 1842, aged 82. He was buried at Guilford Centre. At one time he ran a mill built by the Westcotts to grind grain for their distillery. He was known throughout this section as "the honest miller." Mr. Root was a Minute Man during the Revolution and enlisted six times, the first time in February, 1777, serving one month; the last enlistment was in 1781, serving fourteen days. He served under Captains Silcox, Ingersoll, Denning, Carson, Downing and Heathcote. He applied for a pension in 1832, which was allowed. He was twice married and the father of sixteen children. His second wife, Cynthia Whipple, to whom he was married in 1802, died in 1856.

Let fortune do her worst, whatever she makes us lose, as long as she never makes us lose our honesty and our independence.
—POPE.

Capt. John Backus.

John Backus was born in Norwich, Conn., April 11, 1781. He ran away from home to go to sea when he was about twelve years old, but his father brought him back and told him if he wanted to be a sailor to start in a proper way and found him a place on a ship sailing from New London. He rose rapidly from one position to another, and became a captain before he was very far in his twenties, serving under the Government in the war of 1812. Yielding to the importunities of his wife, he left the sea in 1813, and following the line of immigration from Connecticut with his wife and little daughter came to Oxford. We quote from a letter written by Mrs. Backus to her husband's parents in Connecticut:

January 24, 1814.

You will be surprised to hear that we have moved. Mr. Backus has taken the Coffee House in Oxford Village (the present Hotchkiss House), a large building, considered a very good stand. A good farm under cultivation attached to it; has taken it for three years at $300 per year. We are now all bustle and confusion as we came into the house yesterday and the other family have not yet left the house. The girls in this country are not half so good as they are down country. Mr. Backus has requested the bearer of this letter, Esq. Nichols, to call on you and he can inform you of all particulars. He has likewise requested him if possible to bring our looking-glass as we are much in want of it. This house has six large rooms on the ground—besides a shop, which takes one end of the house through and fronts on one of the public squares of the village. Mr. Backus says Esq. Nichols thinks you might get a load of wheat about twenty miles from here at one dollar 25 cash. There was a load sold here for that to-day. * * * I wrote Mrs. Brewer and requested the favor of the notes of the two afternoon chants, as we have a church meeting here, and a subscription out for building a church. Benj. Butler, formerly from New London, subscribed $500 and a subscription among the ladies for furnishing the pulpit had several days ago, $40 or upwards to it.

In a letter written May 17th of the same year by Mrs. Backus:

A Mr. Hackett sets out to-morrow morning after a load of our goods. * * * Since my husband spoke to Mr. Hackett about going the journey he has seen Mr. Jabez Perkins who would liked to have gone, but the old man would not give up going. He is not quite so steady at all times, but hope he will take good care of the load. He will talk a great deal, you may believe just as much as you have a mind too and no more. We were much surprised at the number of deaths mentioned by Father in his letter. * * * I am almost lost without my little girl. I can see her every step I take, some talk or action is ever before me—and then to find it real that her little body is crumbling into dust crowds hard upon the heart. * * * They are forming an Episcopal society since we came and think they will be able to get a nice church with assistance from Trinity church, N. Y., which they have no doubt of obtaining, and have had three sermons delivered by a young clergyman, who they are in hopes of hiring soon—a very excellent speaker indeed. My husband is one of the committee and seems quite engaged. * * * Will thank you for a few cranberry beans and watermelon seeds & a receipt to color red. * * * If you have observed any new fashions for making gowns will thank you for a little description. If I live I calculate to make me a good black one soon and should like to make it handsomely, as it is not likely I shall wear it out immediately.

A meeting was held at the house of Abijah Lobdell, May 23, 1814, for the purpose of forming an Episcopal church. John Backus was chosen chairman and Abijah Lobdell clerk. It was resolved that the youthful parish erect a place of worship and call it St. Paul's church of Oxford. Frederick Hopkins and John Backus were elected wardens. The first celebration of the Holy Communion was December 10, 1815, Lucinda Backus and Bedee Hull being the only communicants.

In 1814, Mr. Backus bought a farm of 108 acres at $10 per acre, now owned by Alva M. Balcum, near the top of Gamble Roof hill, and that summer proceeded to build the house which is still standing and the exterior but little changed. Mrs. Backus gives the following description in a letter home:

Our house since planting comes on slowly. Will tell you how it is calculated. It is I think 25x37 ft., calculated to have on the ground

a large kitchen, one keeping room with cupboard, two large bedrooms with clothespress and cupboard, a pantry and back entry with sink. A story and a half; stands on the corner of two roads. When he feels able calculates to build in front on the State Road. Have a very pleasant view of the village.

On April 8, 1820, Mrs. Backus died, leaving two small children: William and Lucinda.

WILLIAM, who was born in 1816, married Maria S. Campbell of Norwich, Conn., in 1844. They went west, when to quote his own words: "I could have bought all the land that Chicago now stands on for $10 an acre, and I wouldn't take it as a gift." Mrs. Backus died at Cherubusco, Ind., in 1898, and Mr. Backus at Norwich, Conn., in 1899, leaving no children.

LUCINDA, born in 1818, was married to Amariah N. Bemis in 1839. They lived in Oxford village till 1851, when they removed to Lyon Brook, where Mr. Bemis bought and operated the mills. For many years he transported his lumber to New York by canal. In 1870 he sold the mills and moved to Esmen township, Ill., where Mrs. Bemis died in 1889. Mr. Bemis dying at his daughter's in Oxford in 1897. They left four children:

Nelson A., married Sarah Sheldon of Guilford, N. Y. Residence, Odell, Ill.

Mary, married Albert C. Greene. Residence, Westminster, Conn.

Harriet Lucinda, married Dr. D. A. Gleason of Oxford.

Sarah Abigal, married Frank Raisbeck. Residence, Bloomington, Ill.

In 1821, John Backus married for his second wife, Abigal Glover of Oxford, and they had four children. Mr. Backus spent the remainder of his life quietly on his farm, where he died March 17, 1842. His wife continued on the farm with her son Henry till her death in 1872.

Children:

Henry, never married, living at the old homestead until January 1, 1885, when he sold to Alva M. Balcum, at which time he moved to Newburyport, Mass., where he died in 1898.

John, Jr., died in Norwich, Conn., in 1866, leaving two children: Lila, living at Norwich, Conn., and John 3d, living at Providence, R. I.

Harriet, born in 1827, died in 1832.

Nathan Glover, died in Lisbon, N. D., in 1899, leaving one daughter, Alice M. Bennett of Seattle, Wash.

Death from Lightning.—A sad catastrophe occurred near this town on the night of September 6, 1819. Jabez Perkins, a young man of 36 and brother of Erastus Perkins, with his family had closed their cabin amid the deep darkness in the woods and retired. A fearful thunder storm came up, during which Mr. Perkins and wife in an instant of time were stricken by a blinding flash of lightning into eternity. A child sleeping with them was unharmed. They left a large and helpless family destitute and forlorn.

Jared Hinckley, born at Lebanon, Conn., November 8, 1759, was a soldier of the Revolution who came to Oxford about 1803. He died April 12, 1828, aged 69. His widow, whose maiden name was Hopestill Brewster, died in 1849, aged 89. Mary O. Hinckley, their daughter, died December 27, 1884, in Clifton Springs, N. Y. Married November 17, 1819, Ashel J. Hyde of Oxford. Resided in this village thirty-three years.

* * * hearing the hammers, as they smote
The anvils with a different note.
—LONGFELLOW.

Hoe Factory.

The Oxford Hoe and Edge Tool Company was organized in the spring of 1853 by a stock company, with a capital of $10,000, of which Alamanzar Watson was president, and Lemuel Bolles, Thomas J. Wood, Joseph G. Thorp and Nelson C. Chapman were trustees. The factory was under the superintendence of Mr. Bolles, whose edged tools had been awarded several premiums at State fairs and Mechanical institutes. The fires were first lighted early in December, 1853, and business was soon in full operation, their work gaining an extensive reputation throughout the country. At the World's Exhibition in the Crystal Palace at New York in 1854, the award for the best solid shank cast steel hoe was given to this company, and a silver medal was awarded in November, 1855, by the American Institute fair in New York. On the average thirty men were employed and about $40,000 worth of goods were manufactured per annum. Mr. Bolles remained in the company ten years and then established a hoe factory at South Oxford. Hon. John Tracy succeeded Mr. Watson as president, January 1, 1854, and held the office till the expiration of the charter in 1863, when the company sold to John Y. Washburn and Wm. A. Martin, the latter retiring in June, 1871. Mr. Washburn continued the business till September 17, 1871, when the establishment was destroyed by fire. At the time of the discovery, shortly before one o'clock Sunday morning, the main building was on fire at the south end and by the time the engines reached the scene,

had spread so that it was impossible to save that part of the building and the firemen turned their attention to the wing, containing the engine and boilers, which escaped injury by keeping two streams of water upon it until daylight. The safe and other articles were taken from the office, and with the exception of the engine, boilers, a quantity of belting and a few knives, were all that was saved. The property was valued at $24,000, on which there was an insurance of $11,000. About $2,000 worth of hoes and nearly the same amount of knives were destroyed.

Burning of the Chenango House.—Early Tuesday morning, February 7, 1871, fire was discovered in the barn connected with the Chenango House, on the site of the present residence of Mrs. Mary Warn. An alarm quickly brought the firemen, but the flames had gained such headway that it was impossible to check the devastation. The Chenango House and barn, livery barn, and a barn owned by Orson Crumb were destroyed. L. & A. W. Bartle, proprietors of the hotel, were heavy losers. Buell & Dodge, proprietors of the livery, lost nine horses, several wagons and everything connected with the barn. Mr. Dodge had an insurance of $1,000 on his half of the livery. Mr. Crumb lost his barn, together with its contents.

Samuel Stow, born April 17, 1742, came to Oxford in 1819, to reside with his daughter, Mrs. Hezekiah Morse, and died January 21, 1835. He was a sergeant-major during the war of the Revolution, and in 1832 was granted a pension of $40 per year.

Ladies Village Improvement.

The iron bridge across the canal was removed last week. The change is great in the general view, and will be the greatest improvement Oxford has ever witnessed. One other improvement must now follow, and that is to curb a portion of LaFayette square and form a small Park. * * * The principal item of expense in forming the Park would be in the curbing, a few entertainments by a "Village Improvement Society," would soon raise the amount required. Who is the first public-spirited lady or gentleman to make a move? You can count on the TIMES office for assistance.—OXFORD TIMES, September 3, 1879.

The above item evidently had a stimulating effect for five days later a meeting of several of the ladies was held to devise ways and means of constructing a park on La Fayette Square. From that time the ladies have worked with a will, as the three parks in the village, the town clock, and other improvements testify. The society has raised and expended several thousands of dollars for the benefit of the village.

DANIEL TUCKER came on foot from Massachusetts to Wattles Ferry, near Unadilla, in 1787, and in the spring of 1791 removed to a farm of fifty acres south of the Blackman farm, in Oxford, which is still owned by his descendants. In 1793 he married Mary McKenzie, who came from Kinderhook, Columbia county, and died July 19, 1833. Mr. Tucker worked for Gen. Hovey the first two years, and drove team between Oxford and Catskill. Sleighs were used and the runners were shod with iron-wood. There was no road at that time and those who accompanied the teams carried axes with them to cut away the trees. Mr. Tucker died September 7, 1845, aged 85. He was one of the most fearless, energetic, and active men among the earliest settlers; industrious as well as honest, he enjoyed the esteem and respect of all. He was the father of eleven children.

Stephen Asa Sheldon, who for a number of years was a resident of the village, was born April 28, 1830, in the town of Norwich, N. Y. He married March 26, 1856, Sarah E. Haynes, daughter of Charles B. and Sarah (Mead) Haynes, of Oxford. He went to California in the early days of the gold excitement, where he remained a year or more, experiencing all the hardships and exciting scenes incident to a mining camp. About the year 1860 Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon moved to a farm three miles above the village of Oxford on the east side of the river. Here they remained a short time and then came to the village, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. Sheldon's death occurred September 22, 1895. That of his wife, March 14, 1901. Children: Charles Benjamin, born July 7, 1857; died January 29, 1861. Jessie Haynes, married December 15, 1886, Myron E. Powers of Oxford.

Zopher Betts, a man of large stature, came from Massachusetts, where he was born at Egremont in 1761, and settled on the West side of the river at South Oxford. In the early days of the community, when the Oxford and Greene Baptist church was formed at Brisbin, he was one of the ten constituent members. His sons were Erastus, Silas and Warren, and his daughters were the wives of Blodget Smith, William D. Wheeler, Jeremiah TenBroeck, Wheaton Race and Loren Miller. Numerous descendants are living in the county. Mr. Betts was a soldier of the Revolution, and after living in Oxford a while, he went to Egremont with horse and wagon to get proofs that he might secure a pension, in which he was successful. He died March 10, 1842. Jane, his wife, died February 14, 1841, aged 76. They were buried in the TenBroeck cemetery at South Oxford.

James M. Edwards came to Oxford in 1835 and was employed in the foundry until 1868, when he purchased the property and continued its owner until his death, which occurred February 7, 1887. The foundry was destroyed by fire November 23, 1883. He held the office of village trustee for several years, in which position he was honored and trusted, as in all his business transactions. Mr. Edwards was born January 12, 1815, in Cairo, N. Y. In January, 1845, he was married to Miss Sarah Chubbuck, born May 28, 1816, in Eaton, N. Y., and died September 17, 1902, in Oxford. She was a cousin of Mrs. Emily Chubbuck Judson, a prominent missionary, though better known as Fanny Forrester, the poetess and author of the Alderbrook Tales. Children: John W., died in 1877. Unmarried. Harriet H., married Darwin E. Leland, and resides in Oneida. Sarah Jennette, married William F. Cook. James H., married Mabel T. Davis of Binghamton. Residence, Passaic, N. J.

Joel Chapin, who pursued the occupation of a cabinet maker in the early days of Oxford, died August 2, 1860, in Saratoga Springs, aged 62 years. Honor F., his wife, died May 18, 1844, in Oxford, aged 49 years.

Children:

Eliza B., died March 4, 1851, in Philadelphia, aged 24 years. Anna Wickham, died December 20, 1851, in Germantown, Pa., aged 24 years. Floyd LeRoy, died April 10, 1889, in Glens Falls, N. Y. He studied medicine and became a physician. During the Civil war was surgeon of the 30th N. Y. S. Vols. At second battle of Bull Run he allowed himself to be taken prisoner by the enemy so that he could attend to the wounded Union prisoners within the Confederate line.

Death hath so many doors to let out life.
—BEAUMONT.

Killed the Wrong Man.

During the night of June 25, 1860, John S. White, who kept the old Bush stand, now the farm residence of Patrick Hogan near the O. & W. station, Orlando Utter and Samuel Robinson, having blackened their faces and disguised themselves, went to the house occupied by Horace R. Burlison and family, situated a short distance below White's hotel, and opening the door of the house ascended to the chamber floor and commenced tearing the roof off; working away with the evident intention of razing the house to the ground. While they were at this work, Burlison procured a gun and fired, killing Robinson almost instantly. His intention was to shoot White, but, owing to the darkness and disguises, killed Robinson. It was alleged that Burlison, who was a poor man with a large family, kept a house of illfame, which was a nuisance and a pest to the neighborhood. The coroner's jury brought in a verdict of murder; but the grand jury failed to indict him, and he was discharged. Robinson had but previously come from the West and was in the employ of White. He was a sober, industrious young man of good habits. A few days after the affair, several persons of that neighborhood collected together and razed the house to the ground, destroyed the barn and filled up the well, leaving not a vestige to mark the place where once there was a dwelling.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDIN —Erected in 1894

Money is a good soldier, sir, and will on.
—SHAKESPEARE.

First National Bank.

The First National Bank of Oxford was established in February, 1864, in the building now occupied by Miss S. J. Swan, with a capital of $70,000, which was increased May 10, 1864, to $100,000, and again February 15, 1865, to $150,000, at which amount it stood till June 2, 1879, when it was reduced to $100,000, the present capital, by paying back to the shareholders $50,000 in cash. The first directors were: James W. Clarke, Frederick A. Sands, Peter W. Clarke, William VanWagenen, William H. VanWagenen, Francis G. Clarke, and John R. Clarke. The first board of officers were elected February 10, 1864. They were: James W. Clarke, president; Frederick A. Sands, cashier, and May 10, 1864, John R. VanWagenen was elected assistant cashier. The bank opened for business February 13, 1864, and took up quarters on the second floor of the Clarke block, while the Navy Island location was being prepared for its reception, to which it removed within a few weeks from the organization. Frederick A. Sands resigned as cashier March 22, 1865, in favor of Henry L. Miller, who was succeeded October 8, 1867, by John R. VanWagenen, Mr. Miller accepting the office of vice-president, which was created at that time. After the death of Mr. Clarke, the organizer of the bank and the moving spirit of the enterprise which had proved of so

much importance to the community, June 30, 1878, the office of president was vacant till the annual election in January, 1879, when John R. VanWagenen, the present incumbent, was elected thereto, and Peter W. Clarke, vice-president, Mr. Miller declining a re-election. J. Fred Sands was appointed to the vacant cashiership, which office he held till the appointment of Peter W. Clarke, January 11, 1887, when he was elected vice-president, holding the office for one year only.

Cory D. Hayes, at present in the banking business at Clinton, N. Y., was assistant cashier from January 14, 1873, till his removal from town March 1, 1878. Jared C. Estelow, the present incumbent, was appointed in January, 1888, having served as teller for several years previous. The present directors are: John R. VanWagenen, president; Cory D. Hayes, vice-president; Jared C. Estelow, cashier; Charles W. Brown, William H. VanWagenen, William M. Miller, and Gilbert J. Parker. The bank has been uniformly successful, having accumulated a large surplus besides paying liberal dividends. A semi-annual dividend has never been omitted since the first one in January, 1865. In 1894 the present commodious building was erected, which is a monument to the enterprise and liberality of the present management. Its plans were drawn in the office of State Architect Perry, and personally supervised by him.

Every man has his fault, and honesty is his.
—SHAKESPEARE.

Stephen H. Millard.

Stephen Hambidge Millard, with his wife and infant daughter came to Oxford from Watledge, Gloucestshire, England, his native place, in 1842. He was born February 1, 1821, and his marriage to Mary Gillman occurred in 1840. Their voyage to America in a sailing vessel occupied fifty-two days. Landing in New York city they continued their trip by water to Oxford, taking a boat via Albany and Utica. Here they spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. Millard was a cooper by trade and conducted an extensive cooperage for a term of years, employing a large number of hands. He was fond of music and for many years was leader of the choir in the M. E. church. Mrs. Millard was born in 1822 and died June 20, 1898, in Oxford.

Children:

S. AMELIA, married (1) September 20, 1860, Gilbert J. Rowley, who died May 31, 1867; married (2) Edward Smith, now residing in Seymour, Ct.

MARY E., married April 9, 1867, James G. Van Wagenen.

FRANK S., married September 2, 1875, Della V. Soule of Smithville.

ELLEN J., married February 1, 1871, William Alexander.

CARRIE, married June 10, 1886, Edwin T. Delavan.

HARRIET L., died April 16, 1859, in infancy.

The eternal landscape of the past.—TENNYSON.

CHRONOLOGY

A

Allen, Isaac, died Oct. 22, 1873, aged 87.
Allen, Mrs. Isaac, died Dec. 21, 1865. aged 68.
Ayrault, Chas. V. R., drowned Aug. 19, 1872, aged 15.

B

Bank, First National, established in February, 1864.
Balloon, Mammoth, from Buffalo, arrived in town, Sept. 17, 1873.
Bartle, A. F., died June 22, 1895, aged 76.
Bartle, David W., died Feb. 3, 1897, aged 57.
Bartle, Erwin D., died Jan. 30, 1896, aged 61.
Bartle, George, accidently killed while hunting in Brisbin Feb. 19, 1876.
Bartle, Mrs. Philip L., while visiting at Corning, killed by train Aug. 9, 1902.
Basket Works Co., moved to Oxford from Astabula, Ohio, in 1890.
Beardsley, Asa, died Dec. 25, 1894, aged 74.
Beardsley, John C., died April 3, 1886, aged 59.
Beardsley, Mrs. John C., died March 21, 1904.
Beardsley, Rev. O. R., pastor Universalist church, died May 25, 1905, aged 61.
Beebe, Ira, died April 16, 1903.
Bentley, J. J., died March 8, 1905.
Berry, Erastus J., died May 15, 1899.
Blackman, James H., died Nov. 8, 1899, aged 70.
Blanford, Mrs. Ashton, died Sept. 11, 1904.
Blizzard, severe, March 12, 1888.
Boname, Peter D., died Dec. 1, 1890, aged 49.
Boname, Mrs. Peter D., died Feb. 13. 1904.
Brewster, Ezra S., died March 22, 1905, aged 50.
Britt, Michael, died Aug. 28, 1903, aged 50.
Brodie, John S., died suddenly April 27, 1906, aged 35.
Brooksbank, Robert, died March 23, 1903, aged 59.
Brookins, Wm. H., suicided at W. R. C. Home July 22, 1906, aged 62.
Brown, Cyrus M., died Sept. 3, 1873, aged 59.
Brown, VanNess, died from self inflicted wound May 24, 1888.

Brown, Mrs. Grace, died May 18, 1905.
Burdick, Emma D., murdered, body found buried in swamp Aug. 9, 1888.
Burglars, entered house of Charles Hunt. Fire bell gave alarm Sept. 8, 1870.
Burglary, of E. Clarke & Sons store of $1,100 June 27, 1841.
"Bush, Mike," Italian, killed by blast in Clarke quarry Dec. 27, 1902.

C

Canal bridge in village fell under pressure of drove of cattle Aug. 30, 1850.
Casey, Mrs. E. M., died March 30, 1903.
Chenango Mutual Relief, chartered in 1881, transferred to Security Mutual, Binghamton, April, 1899.
Centennial year, Jan. 1, 1876—ushered in by church bells and martial music. Very warm day, doors and windows open, dust flying.
Church, Frank, of Norwich, killed at Lyon Brook bridge Jan. 1, 1878.
Church, Captain Wm., died March 18, 1891, aged 81.
Citizen's Opera House formally opened Oct. 16, 1888.
Clarke, "Judge" Isaac, died June 5, 1874, aged 77.
Collins, Geo. H., drowned in river July 4, 1887.
Collins, William, died May 3, 1891, aged 68.
Collins, Mrs. Wm., died April 6, 1900, aged 66.
Collision on Lackawanna, above village, two killed and several seriously injured Sept. 29, 1874.
Comstock, S. L., died March 6, 1888, aged 53.
Comstock, Mrs. S. L., died April 7, 1906, aged 52.
Concert, Old Folks, benefit Presbyterian church, March 3, 1874.
Corbin, Mrs. D. D., died March 21, 1904.
Corbin, Eli L., died Oct. 29, 1896.
Corbin, Mrs. E. L., died Feb. 19, 1894, aged 73.
Coughlin, David, died suddenly Oct. 26, 1900, aged 59.
County Fair, held in Oxford Sept. 25, 26, 1849.
County House and insane asylum burned in Preston May 8, 1890, thirteen lives lost.
Coville, Edward M., thrown from a sleigh and killed Feb. 7, 1885.
Coville, J. A., died Jan. 23, 1895, aged 74.
Coville, Mrs. J. A., died Oct. 17, 1904.
Cowles, Morillo, died Nov. 27, 1902, aged 83.
Crandall, Robert, died July 18, 1904, aged 84.
Crosby, Henry, hanged himself Aug. 6, 1888. Mixed up in Emma Burdick murder; his wife charged with the murder sent to prison in 1889 for eleven years.
Crumb, Orson, died Dec. 27, 1889, aged 68. Veteran.
Crumb, Mrs. Orson, suicided by drowning in river Aug. 22, 1877.
Curtis, Bert J., died suddenly Jan. 6, 1884, aged 25.

D

Death of Wm. Butler by drowning in Mud pond, Sept. 2, 1881.
Death by drowning of Geo. L. Gage and Daniel Fisher in Brackett pond, Feb. 27, 1890.
Death by drowning at South Oxford, of Edward Dibble, of Norwich, June 22, 1899.
Death by drowning of little son of Janet Flang, July 7, 1896.
Death by drowning of Edward Hall, Dora Hall and Geo. Sholes at South Oxford, May 10, 1901.
Death by drowning in canal, of little son of Benj. F. Lounsberry, Sr., June 20, 1857.
Death by drowning of Edwin T. Riley April 17, 1856.
Death by drowning of little son of Orlando Robinson, July 24, 1854.
Death by drowning of son of Thomas Witherell, Aug. 9, 1860.
Death by drowning of Charles, son of Jeremiah Wheeler, Oct. 7, 1852.
Death of Enos Greenfield, a stranger, by drowning, Nov. 22, 1824.
Death of Nathaniel C. Thornton by drowning in river April 7, 1901.
Death of "Pat" Cumber by train near Basket factory March 30, 1897.
Death from poisoning of a little girl in Farnham's photograph gallery, Jan. 28, 1864.
Death of Italian from injuries in Blue Stone quarry, Oct. 24, 1883.
Derrick, Henry, lost an arm by explosion of cannon, Nov. 8, 1843. Died July 19, 1906, aged 76.
Deyo, James, born a slave, died Dec. 20, 1900.
Dickinson, Charles G., died Oct. 4, 1892, aged 42.
Doane, Wm. H., suicided Dec. 21, 1879, aged 47.
Dodge, Charles M., died Jan. 28, 1904, aged 61. Veteran.
Douglass, Frederick, lectured Dec. 8, 1864. Orator, formerly a slave.
Dudley, Benj. found dead in highway, Sept. 12, 1863.
Dunn, William, died Nov. 3, 1904, aged 70.
Dunning, Robert, died June 8, 1899, aged 51.

E

Earthquake, a slight shock, Dec. 18, 1867.
Earthquake, two shocks felt Oct. 20, 1870.
Edwards, Benjamin, died January 5, 1904, aged 82.
Electric lights first turned on Feb. 10, 1892.
Elm tree set out in front of postoffie by B. M. Pearne March 11, 1877, tree was then two years old from seed.
Elm trees set out in front of Hotchkiss House Oct. 28, 1895, by Robert W. Taft.
Ensign, Dr. E. L., died at Erieville, Dec. 3, 1903, aged 73.
Ensign, Mrs. E. L., died June 5, 1896.
Explosion of boiler, 40-horse power, on Joel Ingraham farm Dec. 11 1893, killing Joseph Schauer and George Hammond,

F

Fair, Agricultural and Mechanical, organized in Feb. 1859.
Fasting and prayer, day of, designated by President Taylor in view of the alarming progress of cholera in the United States, Aug. 4. 1849.
Fennell, Michael, died from injuries received in Blue Stone quarry, Nov. 22, 1883.
Ferguson, John H., died June 29, 1898, aged 46.
Fire, barn of Carl & Cronk, Sept. 15, 1906.
Fire, barn on Corn Hill farm burned by lightning, July 17, 1866.
Fire, barn of Michael Casey, Nov. 30, 1866.
Fire, barn of H. D. Mead, July 7, 1877.
Fire, barn of George Root, Aug. 11, 1873.
Fire, barn of Stephen Sheldon, Nov. 16, 1886.
Fire, barn of Henry Wheeler, July 4, 1876.
Fire, cabinet shop, J. T. Figary, Jan. 30, 1850.
Fire, candy shop of Edwin May, house of T. T. Woodley, and stage barns of Ethan Clarke, May 27, 1853.
Fire, carriage shop of C. M. Dodge, Jan. 16, 1884.
Fire, carriage shop of Dodge & Robinson, Oct. 19, 1876.
Fire, Clarke block, destroyed Feb. 26, 1858.
Fire, Congregational church, Nov. 28, 1897. Water works first used.
Fire, creamery building at Robinson's Mills, May 26, 1906.
Fire, farm house of J. O. Dodge, Feb 24, 1883.
Fire, farm house of Mrs. Alice McCall, Jan. 24, 1903.
Fire, farm house of James Shapley at Lewis' Mills, June 1, 1879.
Fire, from lightning, two barns on farm of Leroy Hall, Aug. 30, 1905.
Fire, house of Mrs. E. H. Beardsley on Merchant street, Oct. 31. 1904.
Fire, house of Thomas Fennell, Jan. 22, 1879.
Fire, house of M. S. Pierpont and barn of H. B. Morse, Oct. 18, 1876.
Fire, house of Timothy Rogers, Aug. 23, 1904.
Fire, house of E. VanValkenburgh on Franklin street, Dec. 26, 1903.
Fire, house of Widow Winchester, Jan. 26, 1883.
Fire, large barn of Olin Murray, Oct. 27, 1905.
Fire, Lewis' Mills, below village, Nov. 18, 1884.
Fire, Mammoth store, Sept. 10, 1880.
Fire, Park Hotel, Oct. 28, 1903. Albert Skillman broke a leg in jumping from window.
Fire, residence of A. S. Burchard, July 4, 1898.
Fire, residence of Dr. Geo. D. Johnson, May 17, 1904.
Fire, old paint shop, Taylor street, Jan. 13, 1889.
Fire, Rorapaugh's livery barn and three horses, and two other barns, June 13, 1899.
Fire, shops of H. C. Howland and H. O. Daniels, July 20, 1886.
Fire, sled factory, Dec. 5, 1896.
Fire, stores of D. B. Smith, John Lord and F. E. Billings, Feb. 27,1876,

Fire, store of Tony Furnare, May 22, 1904.
Fire, tollgate above village, March 27, 1867.
Fire department, Oxford, organized July 1, 1823.
Firemen's parade and Sappho Hose banquet, June 29, 1906.
Fire steamer taken to Norwich on call for help, Dec. 28. 1895, Eaton's feed store destroyed.
First fire company organized March 8, 1824.
First train over Lyon Brook bridge, Dec. 23, 1899. Great crowd out to see the sight.
First trial of Lady Washington hand engine, Oct. 6, 1858.
First trial of steam fire engine, Oct. 3. 1887.
Fish, Luman B., died Aug. 22, 1893, aged 34.
Fitch, Mrs. Isaac P., died Nov. 24, 1904.
Foote, Robert E., died Nov. 5, 1904, aged 87.
Fox, James H., died April 19, 1868, aged 59.
Fraser, Charles, died Feb. 21, 1900, aged 70.
Fraser, Martin, died Sept. 9, 1889, aged 34.
Fraser, Mrs. Wm., died March 6, 1895, aged 72.
French, Miss Luella, died from burns caused by explosion of gasoline stove, Dec. 10, 1900.
Freshet, water within twenty-two inches of high water mark of 1865, Dec. 11, 1878.
Freshet, water within twenty-one inches of high water mark of 1865, Feb. 26, 1891.
Fulton, Percy E., infant son of Rev. J. M. C. Fulton, died suddenly Sept. 13, 1882.

G

Gas Co., Oxford, organized, Aug. 9, 1897.
Gates, A. D., died May 16, 1892, aged 67.
Gibson, Robert, died suddenly, Nov. 16, 1879, aged 73.
Gillman, Geo. F., died Jan. 11, 1898, aged 49.
Gillman, Ray, son of Charles, drowned, July 2, 1890.
Gillman, Wm., died suddenly, Nov. 8, 1888, aged 68.
Godfrey, Mrs. Daniel, killed by lightniug, Sept. 4, 1867.
Gomes, Sylvester, drowned June 6, 1863.
Grant, Gen. U. S., passed through town on special train, July 30, 1872.
Greeley, Horace, delivered address at fair, Oct. 4, 1860.
Guilford "Old Folkes" concert, Oct. 12, 1865.

H

Hall, Murray, died Aug. 16, 1891, aged 73.
Hamilton, J. W., died June 3, 1901, aged 76.
Harrington, Wm. A., died June 18, 1880, aged 75.
Harrington, Mrs. Wm. A., died Nov. 5, 1893.
Hogan, Wm., died April 17, 1896, aged 78.

Hogan, Wm., 2d, died Oct. 14, 1904. aged 59.
Holmes, Clark K., died Dec. 11, 1903, aged 71.
Holmes, Myron M., died Nov. 22, 1893, aged 80.
Hook and Ladder Co., organized June 25, 1878.
Hotchkiss, Mrs. Samuel, died Nov. 17, 1898.
Hung her infant and self, Mrs. Maria Herrick, aged 17, Oct. 25, 1873.

I

Ingraham, George W., died July 7, 1900, aged 50.
Illumination of village in honor of Lee's surrender to General Grant, April 10, 1865.
Independent Hose Company organized Oct. 17, 1898.

J

Jackson, Fred, colored, mudered his mother Feb. 15, 1879. Died in Auburn prison while serving a life sentence, Dec. 17, 1893.
Johnson, Robert, aged 44, suicided by poison Dec. 29, 1904.
June, Ira W., ex-sheriff, died June 20, 1905 aged 76.
Justice, Wm. A., died April 3, 1890, aged 75.

K

Keeler, Edwin, died April 20, 1900, aged 79.
Ketchum, Egbert, died May 13, 1885, aged 60.
Keyes, George S., died Dec. 17, 1887, aged 28.
Keyes, James, died June 7, 1904, aged 65.
Keyes, Mrs. James, died Dec. 10, 1904.
Kilmer, "Doc," drowned Sept. 11, 1903.
King, Cornelius O., died Aug. 3, 1906, aged 74. Veteran.
Knott, Mrs. L. Augustus, died Oct. 21, 1905, aged 60.
Knott, Luke W., died Jan. 27, 1879, aged 74.

L

Lackawanna's first train ran into Oxford, Nov. 5, 1870.
Lady Washington engine company organized May 6, 1859.
Lady Washington fire engine received Oct. 1, 1858.
Lally, Wm. H., suicided by shooting, Sept. 11, 1905, aged 42.
Leap year calls made by young ladies, Jan. 1, 1872.
Lee, John, killed by falling from Lyon Brook bridge, Oct. 6, 1870.
Lillis, Thomas, died Sept. 6, 1903, aged 85.
Lord, John, for nearly forty years in shoe trade, died Jan. 14, 1883.
Lord, Mary E., wife of John, died June 6, 1874, aged 53.
Ludden, Bishop, visited St. Joseph's church, Oct. 10, 1904.
Lyon, Frank, aged 17, drowned at dam, April 30, 1851.

M

Maltby, Mrs. Morris W., died May 12, 1904.
Marshman, Jacob, died Jan. 24, 1904, aged 74.

Masonic convention, Nov. 14, 1906.
Mass meeting, temperance, May 12, 1842.
Memorial Library, formally opened Nov. 15, 1900.
Merithew, J. S., died Nov. 22, 1901, aged 53.
Merithew, Mrs. J. S., died Aug. 8, 1905, aged 58.
Mevis, Rev. J. W., died suddenly, April 27, 1896, aged 61.
Mevis, Mrs. J. W., died February 13, 1905, aged 68.
Milan, Mrs. Ann, killed by train, Sept. 12, 1883.
Milan, Martin, died April 11, 1898, aged 70.
Miller, Albert, of Utica, brakeman, killed at Lackawanna station, Aug. 6, 1904.
Miner, Amos, died May 30, 1896, aged 68.
Moore, Edgar D., died July 22, 1900, aged 38.
Moore, Lysander, died Nov. 27, 1898, aged 93.
Morehouse, Samuel B., died May 20, 1904, aged 63.
Morgan, Gov. E. D., visited Oxford, July 12, 1860.
Morley, D. D., died June 9, 1905, aged 78.
Munyan, Raymond, aged 2, fatally burned by candle in jack-o'lantern, Aug. 15, 1904.
Murder attempted, of school girl by Wm. Roberts, Aug. 25, 1884.
Murphy, John, died Oct. 7, 1904, aged 77.

Mc

McCall, Roswell J., died May 26, 1896, aged 44.
McCalpin, Charles, died Sept. 27, 1900, aged 47.
McCalpin, Wm., died Feb, 22, 1897, aged 86.
McCalpin, Mrs. Wm., died June 7, 1900, aged 76.
McKoon, Merrit G.,a very popular principal of Oxford Academy, died Nov. 28, 1854.
McNulty, John, of Coventry, drowned in canal, April 19, 1884.

N

Newton, Wm, S., died Jan. 27, 1892, aged 83.
Niagara hand engine bought April 25, 1846. Sold to Guilford in May, 1897.
Niagara Hose company organized March 14, 1878.
Noonday meeting at Baptist church, when $100 was raised for starving poor of Ireland, March 16, 1847.

O

O'Connor, Patrick, died April 27, 1901, aged 63.
Osgood, Richard, killed on Navy Island in runaway accident, Sept. 11, 1871.
O. & W., first passenger train through to New York, Aug. 18, 1873.
O. & W., passenger station first occupied Feb. 2, 1872.
O. & W., work first commenced in town July 23, 1868.

P

Packard, Peter M., died Feb. 10, 1903, aged 84.
Packard, Sophia, wife of Joseph E., died Sept. 15, 1901.
Parachute jump at the fair Sept. 20, 1888, first ever made in this section. Fair ended the following year, Sept. 19, 1889.
Park, LaFayette, staked out April 6, 1880.
Park, Washington, staked out June 4, 1887.
Parker Thomas, found dead in bed, July 25, 1904.
Pearsall, Reuben, died Jan. 29, 1903, aged 84.
Perfect, Samuel, died April 3, 1896, aged 77.
Pettis, Mrs. T. C., died Feb. 5, 1894, aged 68.
Phetteplace, Alonzo, died Sept. 8, 1890, aged 59
Pointer, Wm. T., died Nov. 15, 1901, aged 68.
Post, Edw. E. Breed, No. 196, G. A. R., organized Jan. 21, 1881.
Postoffice burglarized April 16, 1873.
Postoffice burglarized Feb. 5, 1896.
Postoffice burglarized March 26, 1877.
Postoffice burglarized May 28, 1877.
Postoffice burglarized Sept. 12, 1872.
Puffer, Stephen, died suddenly, Feb. 1, 1889.
Putnam, Mrs. Ellen, first Superintendent W. R. C. Home, died Sept. 15, 1901.

R

Raabe, George, died Aug. 12, 1887, aged 42.
Race, Derrick, died Oct. 5, 1903, aged 82.
Race, Mrs. Derrick, died suddenly Oct. 29, 1905, aged 50.
Race, Harry, died March 4, 1892, aged 72.
Race, Henry, died July 9, 1905.
Race, Joseph, died Dec. 4, 1890, aged 74.
Race, Wm. B., early resident, died Nov. 9, 1882, aged 82.
Randall, Levi, died Oct. 29, 1903, aged 67.
Rathbone, J. A., killed at Blue Stone Mill, July 21, 1896.
Regiment, 114th, passed through on canal boats for seat of war. Ladies served lunch at Lewis Hall, Sept. 6, 1862.
Regiment, 114th, returned home via canal. Ladies served breakfast in Lewis Hall, June 19, 1865.
Regiment, 23d Infty., marched through town on way to camp in Pennsylvania, July 22, 1906.
Rider, Earl M., died suddenly, Sept. 9, 1904, aged 43.
Riot, St. Patrick's day, March 17, 1869.
Roe, George, died suddenly, Aug. 8, 1890.
Root, Frank L., died Nov. 11, 1904, aged 26.
Root, Jas. H., died Dec. 30, 1894, aged 64.
Root, James J., died Feb. 11, 1892, aged 61.

Root, John B., died June 6, 1901, aged 73.
Root, Joshua B., died Nov. 27, 1891, aged 89.
Root, Mrs. Joshua B., while insane, suicided by hanging, Oct. 9, 1878.
Root, Mrs. Samuel, died May 9, 1904, aged 94.
Round Robin Reading Club organized in 1894.
Rounds, James, killed by train at Robinson's Mills, June 27, 1904.
Rounds, Joseph, died Dec. 17, 1898, aged 84.
Rugg, George P., died Dec. 10, 1901, aged 57.

S

Sannick, Augustus, died May 3, 1892, aged 67.
Sannick, Mrs. Augustus, died July 16, 1901, aged 76.
Sappho Hose ball and banner presentation, Dec. 31, 1874.
Sappho Hose Company reorganized from Lady Washington Hose Company, Feb. 27, 1873.
Sappho Hose, first parade with carriage, July 11, 1873.
Saxe, John G., lectured Oct. 20, 1859.
Smith, Daniel B., died Dec. 31, 1894, aged 66.
Smith, Lester, died Jan. 26, 1900.
Smith, Merton B., died suddenly, June 26, 1904, aged 53.
Snow fell, May 30, 1884.
Snow fell to depth of three feet, April 20, 1857.
Snow fell to depth of twenty-six inches, Dec. 9,1903.
Snow fell to depth of two feet, Oct. 12, 1836.
Spaulding, E. Judson, mysteriously disappeared July 16, 1896, and no trace of him ever discovered.
Spaulding, William, crushed to death in woods by falling tree, Nov. 21, 1874.
Spence, Robt. E., died from self inflicted wounds and disease, Feb. 26, 1904, aged 56.
Sperry, Carlton L., killed by falling from Baptist church spire, June 7, 1899, aged 27.
Stafford, Elmer S., body found in river April 29, 1906. Disappeared Nov. 19, 1905. Aged 54.
Stafford, Job N., died April 12, 1891, aged 79.
Steam fire engine received in Nov. 1898.
Steam packet passed through town on canal, June 17, 1863.
Stewart, Miss Katie, blind, died Aug. 18, 1906, aged 73.
St. James Hotel opened Sept. 23, 1872, by T. C. Pettis.
Storm of heavy rain, flooded streets and LaFayette Park, July 21, 1902.
Storm, severe electric, July 15, 1904.
St. Paul's church raised over $200 for Chicago fire sufferers, Oct. 22, 1871.
St. Paul's church raised over $100 for starving poor of Ireland, Feb. 28, 1847.
Swan, Mrs. Alma B., died Nov. 25, 1904, aged 92.

T

Taintor, Mrs. Sylvia Fox, died Dec. 30, 1891, aged 78.
Tansey, Edw. S., died Jan. 13, 1891.
Tansey, John, died Aug. 4, 1890, aged 52.
Telegraph, first office, Oxford and Utica, opened, May 3, 1852.
Tew, Harry, died Aug. 19, 1906, aged 58.
Tew, James, died July 24, 1902, aged 79.
Tew, Mrs. James, died Oct. 11, 1906, aged 77.
Thompson, Mrs. Nancy, died March 22, 1892, aged 86.
Thorp, Mrs. Mary, died Nov. 13, 1904, aged 90.
Titus, Mrs. Benj., died Nov. 4, 1906, aged 42.
Tornado swept through village, June 9, 1906.
Tucker, Edw., died Oct. 21, 1888, aged 75.
Tuttle, Miss Emma, died suddenly, Feb. 11, 1906.
Tuttle, Wm. L., died Dec. 8, 1864.

U

Union school building first occupied, March 29, 1897.

V

Vickburg, surrender of. Great rejoicing in village, July 7, 1863.
Village incorporated April 6, 1808.
Volunteers, first for Civil war, left May 7. 1861.

W

Ward, Matthew, suicided, Oct. 25, 1880.
Walker, Charles, died Jan. 9, 1890, aged 92.
Walker, Chas. B., died Dec. 7, 1894, aged 60 Veteran.
Walsh, ——, killed by falling from Lyon Brook bridge, Nov. 10. 1869.
Warn, James, died Jan. 30, 1892, aged 49
Water works completed Oct. 18, 1897.
Webb, Merritt, died May 2, 1889, aged 87.
Wells, Miss Phebe A., died July 22, 1887, aged 49.
Welch, Tommy, drowned June 4, 1887, aged 7.
Wheeler, Gerrit, shot by Neil Brackett, May 30, 1889.
Willcox, Loran, died March 9, 1886, aged 60.
Willcox, Samuel, died Nov. 3, 1892, aged 81.
Willcox, Mrs. Samuel, died July 3, 1901, aged 83.
W. R. C. Home located at Oxford, Oct. 13, 1894.

Y

Youngs, Daniel, found buried in sand bank, Sept. 25, 1876.
Youngs, Stewart, drowned during flood, Sept. 4, 1905, aged 12.

Z

Zero, 30 degrees below, Jan. 11, 1886.
Zero, 31 degrees below, Jan. 19, 1904.
Zero, 32 degrees below, Jan. 30, 1873.



W. R. C. HOME BEFORE COTTAGE D AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WERE ERECTED

How Index learning turns no student pale
Yet holds the eel of science by the tail.
—POPE.

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